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Free to Deployed Areas

'NO MORE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE'

Philippine president declares split of military, economic ties with US

By ANDREO CALONZO
Bloomberg

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he wants to break away from the U.S. and shift toward China and Russia, his strongest comments yet signaling a split with his nation's biggest military ally.

"In this venue, I announce my separation from the U.S.," Duterte said in Beijing on Thursday after meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping. Duterte also said he might go to Russian President Vladimir Putin and tell him "there's three of us against the world."

The announcement came in front of a packed room of Filipino and Chinese business leaders. The tough-talking 71-year-old leader has repeatedly questioned his nation's alliance with the U.S. while touting the economic benefits of friendlier ties with Beijing.

Earlier, China announced a resumption of bilateral talks

'No more American interference. No more American exercises. I will not go to America anymore [for assistance].'

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

on disputed territory in the South China Sea, an issue that had previously pushed the Philippines closer to America.

Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Zhenmin told reporters that the two leaders had agreed to return to a "track of dialogue" over the South China Sea in what is a "new stage of maritime cooperation."

"China has been a friend of the Philippines and the roots of our bonds are very deep and not easily severed," Duterte said in a speech at the Great Hall of the People after meeting Xi for 30 minutes. "Even as we arrived in Beijing close to winter, this is a springtime of our relationship," he said.

Duterte said he was mulling plans to require U.S. visitors to the Philippines to obtain a visa.

Officials from both countries signed 13 pacts on areas including trade, investment, tourism, narcotics and maritime cooperation at the summit meeting.

SEE INTERFERENCE ON PAGE 4

GI killed by IED blast in Iraq

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A U.S. servicemember died Thursday after being wounded by an improvised explosive device in northern Iraq, according to a statement by Combined Joint Task Force Iraq.

The command did not identify the servicemember or immediately provide any additional information about the death.

A massive Iraqi operation was launched earlier this week to drive the Islamic State group from the northern city of Mosul. More than 100 U.S. soldiers are embedded with Iraqi forces, and hundreds more are playing a support role in staging bases.

The troops in Iraq include advisers, trainers, special operations forces and others stationed at Iraqi bases, working with the Iraqi forces. In addition to working with the Iraqis at the division headquarters level, some advisers are advising them at the brigade and battalion level, meaning that they are embedding those teams of advisers with smaller units, closer to the fight.

The death announcement comes a day after two Americans — one a U.S. servicemember — were killed in Afghanistan.

In that case, U.S. and Afghan officials said an Afghan wearing a military uniform attacked a group of foreigners at a base near Kabul. Three other Americans, a servicemember and two civilians, were wounded, officials said.

The Associated Press and Tribune News Service contributed to this report.

INSIDE

Mosul operation shows the elasticity of military support endeavors

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Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in Beijing on Thursday.

No HAN GUAN/AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This one smells like a dog. I hate them. Anyone I catch, I'll drink his blood, even if it's a child."

— Gasim Mohammed, of al-Hud, Iraq, as he kicked the head of the body of an Islamic State fighter who had been slain when residents rose up against the militants as Iraqi forces advanced in their operation to retake Mosul

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Justin May, with 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, lies in the starting position Tuesday before the 110-meter shuttle sprint event of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency testing at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany. May earned a gold badge, meaning he met the highest standard in all six events of the testing.

USAREUR soldiers vie for German badges for military proficiency

BY DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Fifteen soldiers from the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade earned the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency after participating for three days in a battery of events designed to test their physical and mental strength as well as their marksmanship.

Depending on their performance, soldiers earned bronze-, silver- or gold-level badges. During this week's competition, two earned bronze, nine won silver and four won gold.

German Army Sgt. Maj. Juergen Schulz, of the Landeskommmando Bayern, which provided four officers and noncommissioned officers to assist with supervision and evaluation during the event, said he has been conducting the qualification for the badge for about 10 years. It's a good way to build unity between the two armies, he said.

"This brings people together from our different armies and lets us see what our strengths and weaknesses are and how we can help each other, to learn to trust each other," he said following the award ceremony Thursday.

The first of the three days focused entirely on physical fitness: a 110-meter shuttle run, broken up into 11 10-meter sprints; a flexed-arm hang during which participants had to keep their heads above a pull-up bar for a set period of time; and a 1,000-meter run.

"I thought that the (event) that hurt the most was the sprints. I'm not sure why since it wasn't very far, but it was a lot of back and forth," said Spc. Andrew Curtis, who earned a gold badge. "I took a while to recover for the other events, but I never had any doubt that I could perform at a high level and get gold in every event."

The second day of competition was a mix of physical and technical testing, with soldiers first asked to swim 100 meters in their uniforms



German Army Sgt. Maj. Juergen Schulz, left, of the Landeskommmando Bayern, pins the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency onto the uniform of Capt. Douglas Hutton, of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade on Thursday at Clay Kaserne.

in less than four minutes and then, a couple of hours later, hit at least three of five targets in a pistol qualification. The swimming event was a challenge, with four of the original 19 participants unable to finish.

"The toughest part was mind over matter, trying to figure out where you're at in the pool to keep going," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Dec, who earned a silver badge. "I would say three-quarters of the way in, you start to get gassed, and you're starting to get water in your mouth."

Finally, on Thursday, the 15 remaining soldiers had to complete a 745 mile ruck march with at least a 33-pound pack in under two hours.

The soldiers may wear the badges on their dress uniforms for the duration of their military careers.

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Armored unit heads to S. Korea

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The Army announced Wednesday that a brigade of Fort Riley soldiers began a nine-month deployment to South Korea as officials from that country met with their U.S. counterparts in Washington over growing tensions with North Korea.

The 1st Armored Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley in Kansas will send 3,500 soldiers to replace a brigade from the 2nd Cavalry Division from Fort Hood in Texas, according to an Army news release.

Many of the soldiers are already in South Korea, with the rest to arrive in the coming days and weeks, Lt. Col. Kimeisha McCullum, a 1st Infantry Division spokeswoman, said Wednesday.

The regular nine-month rotation announcement comes as Defense Secretary Ash Carter and State Secretary John Kerry met their South Korean counterparts in Washington this week for annual defense talks and to discuss the looming threat of North Korean aggression.

A missile launch by North Korea on Saturday ended in failure as a Musudan rocket, capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, exploded after takeoff. That type of missile has the capability of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam.

"We strongly condemn this and North Korea's other recent missile tests, which violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions explicitly prohibiting North Korea's launches using ballistic missile technology," Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman, said after the launch was announced.

"Our commitment to the defense of our allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan, in the face of these threats is irrevocable. We remain prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from any attack or provocation," he added.

Talks on Thursday between the United States and South Korea are expected to include plans on deploying THAAD anti-ballistic missiles to South Korea, Stars and Stripes reported Wednesday.

The rotational nine-month deployments to South Korea are designed to maintain U.S. troops there as budget cuts make it more difficult to keep units abroad. The U.S. troops will partner with South Korean military units for armed exercises and training, McCullum said.

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PACIFIC

Report cites risks to US, Australia of 'Chinese wedge'

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

One of the top risks to the U.S.-Australia alliance is an emerging "Chinese wedge," in which Canberra would be forced to juggle its economic ties with China and its defense bond with America, potentially undermining its foreign policy, according to an Australian think tank's report.

"Against Complacency: Risks and Opportunities for the Australia-US Alliance," issued this week by the United States Centre in Sydney, advocates a dozen measures to strengthen the alliance.

Among the military-related recommendations are homeporting Navy vessels in Australia, expanding amphibious exercises, boosting cooperation in space and energizing Australia-Japan and U.S.-New Zealand ties.

Australia has been boosting its military strength and regional involvement and tightening its "web" of security ties with America and regional partners, says the report authored by Richard Fontaine, director of the Center for New American Security. Fontaine spent four months in Australia this year as the inaugural fellow for the Alliance 21 Fellowship, which was launched by the U.S. government.

The report shares America's commitment to a rules-based order that has benefited the two allies.

"The result is that Australia may today figure more prominently in the thinking of American policymakers than at any time since the Second World War," the report said. "The Australia-US alliance is deeper, closer and healthier than ever before, and it is newly relevant to the region in which both countries discern their most vital future."

But that shouldn't lead to complacency, the report contends, particularly with China, the rising superpower in the Pacific.

Australia's economic ties to

China are stark. A third of its exports go to China, a higher percentage than any other G-20 country, and China buys half of its exported iron ore from the country, the report said. Chinese investment and tourism in Australia are on the rise, which includes about 50,000 Chinese students studying there under the so-called "education export."

Complicating the relationship is China's routine "punishment" of perceived offenses by trading partners through economic penalties.

The report considers three scenarios in which a China wedge might emerge in U.S.-Australia ties.

The first has Australia acting in concert with American goals that would anger Beijing. That wedge is already materializing over China's claims to a vast swath of the South China Sea.

Canberra has called on China to abide by this year's decision from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that determined China's claims of sovereignty in the sea were not valid.

A Chinese foreign policy spokesman said China was "shocked" by Australia's "wrong remarks." China's state-operated Global Times newspaper warned that if Australia joined the U.S. in freedom-of-navigation patrols in the sea, Australia "will be an ideal target for China to warn and strike."

China also has criticized Australia's warm reception to the Pentagon's interest in rotating new bombers and tankers through the country's air bases, which already have hosted nuclear-capable B-2 and B-52 bombers, the report said.

A second scenario could arise from policy or operational disagreements between America and Australia. For example, Washington was displeased with Canberra's decision to grant a Chinese company a 99-year lease to the port of Darwin, near the site through which U.S. Marines have been rotating.



YURI RAMSEY/Courtesy of the Royal Australian Navy

A Navy landing craft, air cushion from amphibious transport dock the USS San Diego enters the well dock of Australia's HMAS Canberra off the coast of Hawaii during Rim of the Pacific drills in July. A new report suggests that expanding amphibious exercises between America and Australia is one of several ways to strengthen the alliance and to enhance the U.S. policy of rebalancing to the Pacific.

Repercussions from a greater issue, such as the possibility of one day imposing economic sanctions against China for its actions in the South China Sea, could "split" the allies "in damaging ways," the report said.

A third possible wedge could arise if an actual armed conflict arose between America and China.

"In this, Australia would be required to choose sides," the report said. "If Washington at that point called on Australian support, whether maritime or even intelligence in nature, Canberra would face an unavoidable choice between the United States and China."

The next presidential administration should build on the already firm foundation of the U.S.-Australia military alliance, the report recommended.

First, the two countries should move forward from the several years of discussions about expanded access for Navy vessels in Australia and actually start doing so.

The Royal Australian Navy's primary base, HMAS Stirling, near Perth, "offers direct access to the Indian Ocean, an extensive offshore exercise area, submarine facilities and docking for surface vessels," the report said.

"Basing US vessels at Stirling would require significant investments, but the two governments

should be ambitious in examining the possibilities, including planning for forward basing an aircraft carrier strike group in Perth," the report said. "With the US Navy currently porting its Seventh Fleet in Japan, a second carrier strike group required in the region would likely come from the west coast of the US — and consume precious days in steaming there."

Expanding amphibious exercises "can represent a meaningful contribution to the regional stability on which Australia's depend," the report said.

Australia is in the process of acquiring new amphibious capabilities that will enable the Australian army to conduct "full spectrum, expeditionary operations," procurement that is parallel with Japan's development of its own capabilities, the report said.

The three nations should step up trilateral amphibious exercises to ensure smooth integration. The U.S. at one time had seven separate deep-space tracking stations in Australia; it now has only one. "The two governments should take a fresh look at bilateral ways to develop new commercial space opportunities and scientific expertise in both countries," the report said.

Despite an announcement by Australia and Japan in 2014 of a "special strategic partnership,"

Tokyo was stunned when its Australian partner chose to buy submarines from France instead of Japan.

The report suggests that Washington can play the role of "marriage counselor" by encouraging both nations to maintain forward momentum, despite the submarine setback.

With its own special relationship with Australia, New Zealand is growing more confident in its international role, with "a military engaged in operations as far afield as the Gulf of Aden and [East Timor]," the report said.

At the same time, a 30-year rift between the U.S. and New Zealand is coming to an end with the visit of a Navy warship there in November.

A 1984 New Zealand law banned warships carrying nuclear weapons from visiting the country, and because the Navy does not publicly announce specific weaponry, all of its warships essentially were barred entry. The U.S. declared a reciprocal ban on New Zealand warships, which was lifted in 2014.

"Banishing the anachronistic nuclear divide is the first step in an enhanced US-New Zealand partnership in which Australia could play a key role," the report said.

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Military parade will wrap up Stryker brigade's training in Japan

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

Eighty soldiers and eight armored personnel carriers from the 2nd Infantry Division, led by Lt. Col. Lewis McChord, Wash., will join a Tokyo military parade next week after wrapping up nearly two months of training with their Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces counterparts.

Troops and vehicles from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took part in the allies' annual Orient Shield drills near Osaka that involved 1,600 U.S. and Japanese personnel before traveling earlier this month to Marine

Corps base Camp Fuji for more time in the field.

During Orient Shield, the Stryker soldiers fired mortars and machine guns during simulated attacks in armored personnel carriers and helicopters. The exercise, which began Aug. 29 as part of the Army's Pacific Pathways initiative, also involved about 600 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The soldiers then moved to the expansive Fuji Maneuver Area near Tokyo to sharpen their squad- and platoon-level tactics

and battle drills.

"Working with the Japanese was a great experience, and we learned a lot about each other," said 1st Lt. Matthew Konieczny, a platoon leader with B Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. "It's great to come out here, just as a company, and focus on small-unit tactics without sweating the big details."

Details like housing and feeding the soldiers and fueling the Stryker infantry carrier vehicles and providing ammunition for both blank and live-fire exercises were handled by the roughly 200 Marines sta-

tioned at Camp Fuji.

"The Marines have been very helpful and made it much easier for us to focus on our battle drills," Konieczny said.

Soldiers and Marines also compared tactics, techniques and procedures for fighting in urban terrain.

Sunday's parade is part of Japan's Review of Self-Defense Forces at Asaka Training Area on the border of Tokyo and Saitama prefectures. The review will also feature aerial displays of U.S. and Japanese aircraft.

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PACIFIC

US joins allies in exercise aimed at weapons shipping

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The United States, Japan and South Korea will practice detecting and stopping ships carrying weapons of mass destruction during a sea exercise this weekend.

The trilateral exercise comes in light of North Korea's continued work on its nuclear weapons and missile program. South Korean defense officials told reporters in Seoul on Thursday.

The maritime interdiction operation will be held Saturday and Sunday in international waters south of South Korea's Jeju Island, Yonhap News reported.

The sea services also will conduct search-and-rescue exercises aimed at rescuing personnel on disabled ships, the report said.

The Navy is sending the Yokosuka-based destroyer USS McCampbell, the replenishment oiler USNS Ticonderoga, a patrol aircraft and a helicopter, according to Yonhap.

Japan is sending the destroyer Ariake and multiple helicopters, while the destroyer Yulgok YiYi will represent South Korea, according to the report.

Officials at the 7th Fleet in Japan on Thursday referred all questions on the exercise to the Defense Department in Washington, where no one was immediately available for comment.

Although relations have been strained between South Korea and Japan in recent years, the U.S. and its two northeast Asia allies have agreed to share intelligence regarding North Korea.

On Oct. 14, senior military officials from Japan and South Korea

met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford and regional commanders at the Pentagon.

"They called on North Korea to 'refrain from irresponsible provocations that aggravate regional tensions, and to instead focus on fulfilling its international obligations and commitments,'" according to a Pentagon statement.

Two days later, U.S. officials said they detected what they suspected was a failed Musudan intermediate-range rocket launch near Kusong, North Korea.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff called the launch an "illegal act of provocation" in a statement Sunday. United Nations Security Council resolutions bar North Korea from continuing work on its nuclear program.

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ANGELIQUE PEREZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Japanese fighter jets fly in an undated photo. The frequency of Japan scrambling jets to check foreign aircraft is continuing to rise, according to new statistics from the country's Ministry of Defense.

Chinese, Russian aircraft spur scrambles by Japan

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan is increasingly scrambling jets to check foreign aircraft as China tests its neighbor and Russia increases its presence in the Pacific.

While statistics on Japan Air Self-Defense Force interceptions for June to October show no air-space intrusions, there was an 11 percent increase from 281 in the previous three months, including a 4 percent rise in responses to near-approaches by Chinese fighters and a 30 percent increase in responses to Russian bombers.

The 594 sorties for April to October was a 73 percent increase from 343 in the same period last year. The 2016 figure included 407 sorties in response to Chinese fighters, an increase of 176 from the same period last year, which had been the highest number since 2001.

There also were 180 sorties in response to Russian bombers in April-October, an increase of 72 from a year earlier.

Both the Defense Ministry and the JASDF declined to comment on the figures, although officials repeatedly have criticized Chinese expansion in the region. They also declined to comment on how Japan's airspace is set up, as it is not uniform surrounding Japanese territory.

Included in the statistics were sorties last month to intercept eight Chinese military aircraft flying between Okinawa's main island and Miyako Island.

Japanese officials spoke out against China's comments last month that it would continue to patrol an Air Defense Identification Zone that includes portions of

the East China Sea's high seas and airspace over the resource-rich Senkaku island chain, claimed by both Japan and China.

There also have been 30 Chinese incursions at sea so far this year.

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Interference: US concerned about policies

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pacts on transport infrastructure, financing from Export-Import Bank were among those forged as China committed to support infrastructure development in the Philippines.

"At a certain point, if Duterte wants to reap the economic benefits from his visit to China he will need to pay the piper," said Malcolm Davis, a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Canberra.

Before his meeting with Xi, Duterte told hundreds of Filipinos in Beijing that "it's time to say goodbye" to the U.S.

"Foreign policy veers now towards" China, Duterte said on Wednesday night. "No more American interference. No more American exercises," he told a cheering crowd. "I will not go to America anymore" for assistance, he said. "We will just be insulated there."

The U.S. has been the Philippines' closest ally since independence in 1946, and the nations are linked by formal defense treaties. Members of Duterte's Cabinet have repeatedly tried to tone down his more inflammatory remarks — such as telling President Barack Obama to "go to hell" — and stress that a more independent foreign policy doesn't mean severing ties with the U.S.

Duterte himself told reporters Wednesday that this trip wouldn't lead to a military alliance with China or joint energy exploration in disputed seas. The plight of Filipino fishermen seeking to resume activity in the Scarborough Shoal, which China effectively took control of in 2012, will be mentioned "in passing" to Xi, Duterte said.

The U.S. has expressed con-



NG HAN GUAN/AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center, walks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcome ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on Thursday.

cern about Duterte's policies. Philip Goldberg, the U.S. envoy in Manila, said Wednesday that the Philippines' efforts to improve ties with China "shouldn't be a zero-sum game."

Duterte has lashed out at the U.S., the United Nations and the European Union for criticizing his drug war over alleged human-rights abuses. According to police data, more than 3,000 suspects have been killed after the policy took effect.

By contrast, the Philippine leader called China "very kind" for funding a drug rehabilitation center.

Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry, said Wednesday that Beijing "appreci-

ates President Duterte's efforts to crack down on drug crimes and improve social security with the fundamental interests and well-being of his country and people in mind."

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EUROPE

606th ACS families welcome airmen home

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — October is shaping up to be a month of reunions here, following the end of a pair of six-month combat deployments in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and other downrange missions.

A cold, dreary Thursday morning couldn't dampen the giddy spirits of the families who welcomed home more than 160 airmen from the 606th Air Control Squadron.

Among the crowd holding American flags and glittery signs while waiting inside the squadron building for the busloads of airmen to arrive from the base terminal was Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Solomon, a datalinks technician with the squadron.

She carried the reason for sitting out this deployment in her arms: Baby Fredrick, 3 months old.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Solomon, a radar operator, was about to meet the couple's sixth boy for the first time.

"It's huge," Tiffany Solomon said of the moment. "We haven't told the other kids yet. I just want him to have a few moments with the new one and then we'll add the family."

The couple's oldest, a high school sophomore, almost foiled the surprise.

"I was going to be in a dress," Tiffany Solomon said. "He asked questions this morning. I said, 'Oh, no, I'm just trying it on for when dad comes.' So I put my uniform back on."



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Brian Solomon meets his newborn son for the first time with his wife, Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Solomon, at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, on Thursday after finishing a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

Thursday's reunion was held about a week after hundreds of Spangdahlem families celebrated another milestone — the return of the 480th Fighter Squadron after its first deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

About 300 airmen deployed to Southwest Asia for six months in flight, maintenance and support roles for the squadron's F-16 fighter jets, base officials said.

The bulk of the airmen who returned Thursday worked from hubs at Al Dhara

Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, providing command and control to U.S. and coalition aircraft involved in three missions: the fight against the Islamic State group, operations in Afghanistan and the defense of the Persian Gulf. Other airmen with the squadron were spread out at satellite forward operating locations in the region.

"It was extremely, extremely unique because of the circumstances surrounding the AOR right now," said Lt. Col. Jason Zemler, the squadron's director of operations.

"A lot of interaction with Russian aircraft, a lot of interaction with coalition aircraft, a lot of interaction with players that you would traditionally not have interaction with, which was a challenge," he said. "The guys did absolutely awesome with it."

Downrange, the airmen were part of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, known simply by the call sign "Kingpin." They supported 175 operators in 941,000 square miles of air space from Syria to Afghanistan while controlling 38,000 sorties, Zemler said.

If the mission could be likened to a football game, the squadron was the quarterback, Zemler said.

The receivers might "drop a bomb, refuel some assets or simply do some intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance," he said. "We're the ones who tell them where to go and manage them once they get there."

Spouses such as Cari Lara left behind to manage the home front had to manage

their own juggling acts.

A week after her husband, Maj. Ricardo Lara, an air battle manager with the ACS, had deployed, Lara found out that she was pregnant. She waited for him Thursday with an oversized belly and the couple's two toddlers.

"Oh my gosh, I'm a hot mess," she said. "I'm almost eight months pregnant, trying not to cry; my kids are running around like crazy."

For the Laras and other squadron families, there won't be much time for rest and relaxation.

Over the next several months, the squadron will complete its move to Aviano Air Base, Italy, where it will take over the facilities that were vacated by the 603rd ACS in August 2013 when it was inactivated.

The 606th's transfer to Aviano is one of the first moves of the European Infrastructure Consolidation Plan, part of a sweeping reorganization of U.S. forces on the Continent. The 606th's relocation will make room for the 352nd Special Operations Wing, slated to move to Spangdahlem from RAF Mildenhall in Britain, in the coming years.

The squadron will be out of Germany by the end of February, said Maj. Carol Kale, the 606th ACS Detachment One commander.

That's when "we close out the lights and nothing belongs to us anymore," she said.

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MILITARY

Arresting system passes key test

'Fly-in' trial conducted for advanced gear for carrier USS Gerald R. Ford

By HUGH LESSIG

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

A critical system on the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford that has symbolized the ship's struggles has taken "a big step forward," the Navy has reported.

The advanced arresting gear, designed to safely land aircraft on the flight deck, recently recovered a "fly-in" of an F/A-18E Super Hornet at a land-based site in New Jersey.

Prior to that, the Navy had trapped more than 200 aircraft in a "roll-in" type of land-based test.

"This milestone test event demonstrates AAG's capability and signifies a big step forward in getting the system ready for duty on board the Navy's newest aircraft carrier," said Capt. Stephen Tedford, program manager for aircraft launch and recovery equipment.

Built by General Atomics, the advanced arresting gear combines energy-absorbing water turbines and an induction motor to bring aircraft to a controlled stop.

It is currently installed on the Ford, which continues to undergo testing at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Naval Air Systems Command completed more than 1,300 "traps" using dead loads before switching to manned aircraft. The tests are being conducted at sites in Lakehurst, N.J.

The arresting system recognizes roll-in and fly-in landings as essentially the same, but the different approaches allow the Navy to test variable conditions the system will face, according to NAVAIR.

The Oct. 13 fly-in was deemed successful because it allowed the test team to gather data at 12 different points, said NAVAIR spokesman Michael Land.

Additional fly-in tests will not be needed, he said.

However, the Navy will continue to conduct roll-in tests with aircraft as well as dead-load tests.

Eventually, NAVAIR will issue what's called an aircraft recovery bulletin for the Super Hornet.

It instructs the crew on how to use the advanced arresting gear for a specific type of aircraft.

NAVAIR plans to issue a limited aircraft recovery bulletin so the Ford can test the arresting gear with manned aircraft on its flight deck.

That timetable hasn't been announced.

Besides the new arresting gear, several key systems on Ford have proved troublesome. The ship is well behind its intended delivery of September 2015, and the Navy hasn't specified when the \$12.9 billion warship will join the fleet.

Top Navy officials have attributed the delays to a decision made more than a decade ago to pack several new, untested technologies on the Ford, the first of

a new carrier class, instead of gradually introducing new components over several ships.

Frank Kendall, a Defense Department undersecretary and lead weapons buyer, recently kicked off a review of the Ford carrier program, and arresting gear is among his top concerns.

The Navy has acknowledged those problems and is reviewing whether to install gear on the next Ford-class carrier, the John F. Kennedy.

The drumbeat of negative reports on the gear dates back almost two years.

In November 2014, the Government Accountability Office noted failures in land-based testing that led to further work and redesign.

In March 2015, a Naval Sea Systems Command officer said AAG was about two years behind schedule.

In October of that year, a Pentagon official told Congress that AAG testing had not yet accumulated meaningful data, yet it was already installed on the Ford.

In July 2016, the Defense Department inspector general said the program had recorded a 332 percent cost increase through research, development, testing and evaluation. It represented an overrun of \$571.5 million from 2005 baseline numbers.

In August, Kendall announced his intent to review the overall program.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who visited the Newport News shipyard last week, gave an upbeat assessment of the challenges that face Ford, although he declined to predict when it would be delivered to the Navy.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

The USS Detroit, one of the Navy's newest warships, arrived in Detroit last week. About 1,000 people were able to get aboard Wednesday, the only day the ship was open for public tours.

USS Detroit a popular site in namesake city

By BILL LAITNER

Detroit Free Press

On the only day of public visits to the new USS Detroit docked in downtown Detroit, a crowd of almost reverentially polite visitors mobbed the wharf Wednesday, but many were turned away.

Nautical buffs and the merely curious found that even waiting for hours did not necessarily get them aboard.

Cmdr. Michael Desmond, commanding officer of the littoral combat ship, strolled among those waiting at the river's edge,

greeting people, smiling for selfie photo requests and thanking all for their interest in the newest pride of the U.S. Navy.

When Desmond shook hands with Josh Riesenberger, 9, the boy's father immediately issued an order. "Thank him for his service," urged Glenn Riesenberger.

An estimated 1,000 fans got on deck to take 15-minute tours but many others waited in vain.

"Frankly, we could've had several days of this and still not gotten to everyone. But hey — it's a small ship and there's tremendous interest," said Gordon Cole

of Livonia, a retired Navy captain, and spokesman for the USS Detroit's visit.

The ship is 389 feet long, roughly half the size of its 796-foot namesake that was scrapped in 2005.

Just ogling this gleaming craft from a parking deck was enough for one family. Janie Smith, 96, of Detroit ducked the crowds by standing with her two daughters and a granddaughter on the fourth floor of a parking deck next to the Renaissance Center.

"I'm so excited to see it," Smith said.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

UN data: More children victims of Afghan War

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The number of children killed and wounded in Afghanistan's conflict increased in the first nine months of 2016, compared with the same period last year, the U.N. mission said in a new report released Wednesday.

The U.N.'s Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said it has documented a total of 2,461 casualties among children in 2016 — 639 deaths and 1,822 wounded. That's a 15 percent increase, compared with the January-September period in 2015.

The mission stressed that it remains deeply concerned over the continuing increase in child casualties, which have risen every year since 2013.

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, UNAMA documented 8,397 conflict-related civilian casualties, with 2,562 deaths and 5,835 wounded. That represents a 1 percent decrease, compared with the same period in 2015, said the mission.

Again, ground engagements remained the leading cause of civilian casualties, followed by suicide bombings and other complex attacks, including use of improvised explosive devices.

"Increased fighting in densely populated areas makes it imperative for parties to take immediate steps to ensure all feasible precautions are being taken to spare

civilians from harm," the report quoted Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. chief's special representative for Afghanistan, as saying.

The report also attributed the majority of the deaths to anti-government elements, saying the Taliban and other insurgents caused 61 percent of civilian casualties while pro-government forces caused 23 percent in the same nine months of 2016. Again, the report found that most of the dead and wounded civilians were caught in crossfire.

The U.N. report also documented numerous conflict-related incidents targeting health care and educational facilities, as well as those providing humanitarian aid.

Since Jan. 1, UNAMA documented 75 incidents of attacks targeting schools and education facilities, including targeted killings, abductions and threats against teaching staff.

The report also noted the Aug. 24 attack on the American University in Kabul, when militants stormed the sprawling campus grounds on the western outskirts of the Afghan capital, killing 13 civilians, mostly students, and wounding 48 others.

The UNAMA report on the Afghan civilian casualties, which is released quarterly, is based on on-site investigations wherever possible.

450 Md., Va. Guardsmen mobilized for Mideast duty

By ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — More than 450 soldiers of the Virginia and Maryland National Guard are slated for a deployment to the Middle East, Guard officials said Wednesday.

Soldiers from both states, which make up the famed 29th Infantry Division, will provide mission command for 18,000 troops of Operation Spartan Shield and theater security cooperation in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the division said in a news release. That area includes North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, where U.S. troops are engaged in everything from drone strikes in Yemen to a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan and ramped-up operations during the battle for Mosul in a bid to oust the Islamic State group from its stronghold in Iraq.

The deployment will mark the largest number of troops that the division has led since World War II, the news release stated.

"This is an historic deployment and tremendous opportunity for the 29th Infantry Division as we take on mission command of forces in the Central Command area of operations," said Brig. Gen. Blake Ortner, commander of the 29th Infantry Division.

The Fort Belvoir, Va.-based

soldiers will train in Texas after their Oct. 30 departure ceremony and then will move on to the Middle East, the news release stated.

National Guard soldiers are taking on a more active role in theater support command. Soldiers from the headquarters staff of the Texas-based 36th Infantry Division are deployed now to

Afghanistan.

The 29th Infantry Division is notable for its service in World War I, and then later in World War II, when its soldiers were among the first wave to take Omaha Beach during the Normandy amphibious assault in 1944.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Elite Iraqi unit joins Mosul fight

BY LOVEDAY MORRIS
AND KAREEM FAHIM

The Washington Post

SHEIKH AMIR, Iraq — Iraq's elite counterterrorism unit joined the battle to recapture Mosul from the Islamic State group for the first time on Thursday as Iraqi army forces and Kurdish soldiers attacked the militants' positions outside the city on several fronts.

Commanders said the counterterrorism group, which has received training and support from the United States, was besieging the town of Bartala, about 6 miles east of Mosul. Half a dozen Humvees from the unit were prepared to enter as Iraqi forces pounded Bartala with artillery.

The involvement of the counterterrorism unit came as Kurdish soldiers, known as peshmerga, opened a new front against the Islamic State group from the north of the city — the Islamic State group's last stronghold in Iraq.

Thursday marked the second major wave since Iraq embarked on a large-scale operation to cap-

ture the city earlier this week. Over the last two days, the Kurdish and Iraqi forces have captured a string of villages south and east of Mosul, closing to within a dozen miles of the city.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced to Western diplomats in a video call to Paris that forces were moving "more quickly than planned" toward Mosul.

For the Islamic State group, losing Mosul would likely break the back of its self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq.

Efforts to wrest Iraq's second-largest city from the militants' control have been stymied by concerns for the safety of more than 1 million civilians in the city, as well as squabbles over which of Iraq's fighting forces would participate.

Tens of thousands of soldiers are participating in the operation, which is backed by U.S. air support. Islamic State fighters are vastly outnumbered but have countered the attacking force with suicide car bombs, improvised explosive devices and mor-



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

A member of Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces pauses during the advance toward Mosul, Iraq, on Thursday. The Counter Terrorism Service is expected to lead the charge in Mosul.

tar fire.

The battle for Mosul is the most complex fight in the conflict to push Islamic State militants out of Iraq, involving not just Iraqi army forces, but also Sunni tribal units, Shiite militias and Kurdish forces.

Islamic State fighters overran the city in 2014, and it has since become the center of their opera-

tions in the country.

As Kurdish and Iraqi forces have pushed into the network of villages surrounding Mosul, they have found them heavily defended and boobytrapped.

Iraq's counterterrorism troops are among the most celebrated and effective units in the military. They led assaults on Ramadi and Fallujah earlier this year.

Town outside Mosul rises up against Islamic State

BY BRAM JANSSEN

Associated Press

AL-HUD, Iraq — The mutilated bodies of Islamic State group fighters were still strewn on the ground of this northern Iraqi town on Wednesday. One was burned. Another's face was flattened by abuse.

Iraqi troops on the march toward Mosul moved into al-Hud a day earlier and declared it liberated. But they found residents had risen up and killed many of the militants in the town themselves.

With the offensive to recapture Mosul in its third day, Iraqi forces advancing from the south and east are fighting to retake the towns and villages that dot the plains and line the Tigris River leading to the city. At times, they've met fierce resistance, with the militants sending explosives-packed vehicles careening toward the troops' positions.

In al-Hud, a Sunni Arab town on the Tigris, residents saw their chance to get rid of them. On Monday, a man paraded through town with an Iraqi flag in a show of defiance, residents told The Associated Press. Islamic State fighters shot and killed him.

A group of residents gathered in a shop, news spread among the hundreds of people living in the town, and soon a crowd turned on the militants.

One resident, Ahmed Mohammed, said he and others shot a militant who was hiding by an outhouse behind a shop. "At didn't work. Then one of our guys came and threw a grenade on him from the top," he said.

Gasim Mohammed said his father was killed in the uprising against the militants. He kicked the head of one of the bodies. "This one smells like a dog," he said. "I hate them. Anyone I catch, I'll drink his blood. Even if it's a child."

It was not clear how many militants had been in the village or how many were killed. The AP saw at least five bodies.

On Wednesday, residents were celebrating. Children ran toward an Iraqi military convoy waving peace signs while others threw stones at the bodies of the dead Islamic State fighters. Residents fired celebratory rounds into the air, and cars along the main road still flew white flags of surrender.

US troops to expand support for Iraqi forces

BY MISSY RYAN

The Washington Post

As the operation to retake the Iraqi city of Mosul gets underway, American troops are poised to expand their hands-on support to local forces battling the Islamic State group. In a sign of the importance of the long-awaited offensive, military leaders are authorized to place U.S. forces advisers with Iraqi army battalions for the first time, as they push toward militant lines, exposing U.S. forces to greater risks.

Military officials say the troops will remain back from the thick of combat and will limit their support to coordinating air and artillery fire, providing intelligence and helping plan troop movements. The U.S. role will not, they insist, look like the years following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when U.S. troops who operated nominally in support of local forces often did the bulk of the fighting themselves. This time, U.S. advisers are "not meant to be the front-line troops," Capt. Jeff Davis, a military spokesman, told reporters Tuesday.

Several days into the operation, Pentagon officials have provided only general information about where U.S. troops will be located and how exactly they will take part in the hoped-for advance. While American troops have been widely seen alongside local forces in forward positions east of Mosul, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook on Monday said only that the forces were positioned "on the outskirts of the city." He

said it was not yet clear whether U.S. forces would be permitted to enter the city proper.

Officials' reluctance to provide greater detail reflects a desire to protect U.S. advisers, attached to local units in small groups of about a dozen. It is also part of an effort to keep the U.S. role in the background, as Iraqi leaders have ruled out a combat role for foreign forces and local military commanders seek to claim victory after past defeats.

But questions about the extent of U.S. activities in the unfolding ground operation also serve to highlight the elasticity of the American advisory role, which has been employed in a host of counterterrorism conflicts since 2001, such as joint planning at heavily guarded headquarters and combat situations where U.S. troops fight alongside or even ahead of local forces.

David Maxwell, a former U.S. Army Special Forces colonel now at Georgetown University, said military advisers in head-on battle with the tension between nurturing local forces, who are often beset by systemic problems, and accomplishing the mission.

"One of the challenges we saw in Iraq and Afghanistan was that there was so much pressure to accomplish the mission that often U.S. partnered forces would take the lead," he said.

Sometimes, haziness about the U.S. advisory role is rooted in confusion about the terms military officials use to describe these activities, including "advise, assist and accompany," said

William Wechsler, who until last year served as deputy assistant defense secretary for special operations and counterterrorism.

"For the average person, advising sounds like something that is done from pretty far away, from time to time, with pretty limited responsibility," he said. "To the military, advising is something that you're doing on a day-to-day basis, shoulder to shoulder with your partners, and their success becomes your success."

Another element is that, while operational rules are established in Washington, decisions that shape the reality of what U.S. troops do are made by personnel in the field. That could come into play in the Mosul operation when advisers, who in most cases are authorized to accompany local troops only up to where they can protect themselves, make decisions about where that point stands.

"While policy limits must be established up front, there has to be some degree of flexibility allowed to those in the field," said

Wechsler, who is now a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. "At the end of the day it's a call for the people at the tactical level to determine what the last terrain feature might be."

Advisers must also respond to changing battlefield threats that alter the advisory role, sometimes with deadly results. Last year, a Delta Force soldier became the first combat casualty in the renewed U.S. campaign in Iraq while providing support to an Iraqi rescue operation. When the Kurdish fighters came under unexpected fire, U.S. forces tried to come to their aid, and the U.S. soldier was killed.

Unlike some past operations, U.S. advisers in Mosul, who now number a couple of hundred, are expected to remain in a secondary role. That's partly because of Iraqi wishes but also a strong U.S. desire to avoid casualties. It may also reflect confidence that Iraqi troops, with the help of U.S. advisers and air power, can get the job done.

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WAR/MILITARY

Turkey escalates campaign against Syrian Kurds

BY SARAH EL DEEB
AND SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkish jets and artillery struck U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters in northern Syria Thursday, and Turkey's state-run news agencies said as many as 200 militiamen were killed, in a major escalation of Turkey's offensive in northern Syria.

A senior commander with the main Syria Kurdish militia confirmed that Turkish jets and artillery were still attacking his forces north of Aleppo, but disputed the casualty count, saying no more than 10 fighters had been killed so far.

Farther south, a humanitarian pause announced by Russia for the besieged rebel-held city of

Aleppo took effect, and the Syrian military, using loudspeakers, called on residents to evacuate and for gunmen to lay down their weapons. But there was no sign of residents leaving the bombed-out districts.

The bombardment was a major escalation by Turkey just as the offensive to recapture the city of Mosul from Islamic State militants in Iraq was intensifying. Iraqi Kurdish forces have carried the brunt of the fighting so far in the Mosul offensive. Turkish troops in Iraq have trained fighters involved in the Mosul offensive, which has been a source of tension with the Iraqi government in recent days.

Kurdish forces in Syria also have carried out most of the fighting against the Islamic State group

and have made significant territorial gains, including advances in the past few days against Islamic State militants in Aleppo province, much to Ankara's fury in recent months. Turkey, which is dealing with a homegrown Kurdish insurgency, has been trying to prevent an expansion of Kurdish influence in Syria.

Commander Mahmoud Barkhadan, of the People's Protection Units, told The Associated Press that Turkish tanks have been shelling the Kurdish-led forces in the area since early Wednesday. He said jets joined overnight and continue to pound his forces.

He said more than 30 aerial attacks had taken place so far and

that early reports suggest no more than 10 fighters were killed and 20 were wounded. There was no word on civilian casualties yet.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 11 Kurdish fighters were killed and four are missing following the air raids in northern Aleppo.



DEZ WADE, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, CROWN COPYRIGHT/AP

A Royal Navy lookout aboard the HMS Richmond on Tuesday observes the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, rear second right, and the Russian battlecruiser Pyotr Velikiy, which are part of a Russian task group during its transit through the North Sea.

UK sends warships to watch Russian ships heading toward Syria

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain has deployed warships to monitor a Russian aircraft carrier group and other vessels Thursday as they sailed through the North Sea and the English Channel reportedly en route to Syria's coast.

The frigate HMS Richmond escorted the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its task group in the Norwegian Sea north of the U.K. between Iceland and Norway. The destroyer HMS Duncan has sailed from Portsmouth to monitor the group as heads south toward the North Sea.

The Royal Navy regularly shadows ships, and is being supported in this instance by the Royal Air Force. But this Russian deployment is somewhat different, in that only a few countries have the capability to deploy such a force — an aircraft carrier and supporting warships.

"It's a clear and military signal

that Russia is back on the international stage," said Peter Roberts, a senior research fellow for sea power and maritime studies at the Royal United Services Institute.

The ships are sailing in international waters, so NATO forces such as those of Norway, the Netherlands and Britain will simply watch them go past without challenge.

The Russian navy deployment will increase its firepower in Syria, where it has conducted an air campaign in support of President Bashar Assad's army for more than a year. It comes amid an offensive by Assad's troops on Aleppo, backed by Russian warplanes, that has caused international outrage.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has urged her European Union partners to unite in condemning Russia's role in Syria and to bring an end to what she called Moscow's "sickening atrocities" there.



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Thursday, October 20	Vicenza	1600 – 1700	Vicenza Army Base, Vicenza Elementary School
Friday, October 21	Aviano	Civilians 1330 – 1430	Aviano Air Force Base, Base Theatre (Area F)
		Teachers 1500 – 1600	Aviano Air Force Base, Aviano Middle/High Media Center
Monday, October 24	Alconbury	1515 – 1615	Alconbury Middle School Library
Tuesday, October 25	Naples	Civilians 0900 – 1000	Naples Navy Base, CAPO Fellowship Hall
		Teachers 1445 – 1545	Naples Navy Base, Naples Elementary, Media Center
	Lakenheath	1600 – 1700	Lakenheath Area School Library
Wednesday, October 26	London	0900 – 1200	U.S. Embassy Cafeteria Lobby
Tuesday, November 8	Frankfurt	Open Season 1000 – 1100	U.S. Consulate Auditorium (TBD)
		Medicare & FEHB 1400 – 1500	U.S. Consulate Auditorium (TBD)

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NATION

Candidates clash in final presidential debate

BY JULIE PACE AND LISA LERER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Threatening a fundamental pillar of American democracy, Donald Trump refused to say Wednesday night that he will accept the results of next month's election if he loses to Hillary Clinton. The Democratic nominee declared Trump's resistance "horrifying."

Trump has spent the days leading up to the third and final presidential debate warning voters that the election will be "rigged." Asked whether he would accept the outcome if Clinton emerges victorious, he said, "I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense."

That contradicted pledges by his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, as well as his daughter, Ivanka.

Wednesday's contest quickly shifted from a calm, policy-focused faceoff into a bitter and deeply personal confrontation. Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman," while the Democrat panned him as "unfit" to be commander in chief.

Clinton, who began the debate with a lead in nearly all battleground states, forcefully accused Trump of favoring Russia's leader over American military and intelligence experts after the Republican nominee

pointedly refused to accept the U.S. government's assertion that Moscow has sought to meddle in the U.S. election.

She charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was backing Trump because "he'd rather have a puppet as president of the United States."

Trump denied any relationship with Putin and said he would condemn any foreign interference in the election. But he notably declined to back the intelligence community's assessment that Russia was involved in the hacking of Democratic organizations. The Clinton campaign has said the FBI also is investigating Russia's involvement in the hacking of a top adviser's emails.

The 90-minute contest in Las Vegas came just under three weeks before Election Day and with early voting underway in more than 30 states. Trump has struggled to expand his support beyond his most loyal backers and must reshape the race in its closing days if he hopes to defeat Clinton.

The candidates clashed repeatedly over their drastically different visions for the nation's future. Trump backed Supreme Court justices who would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling, while Clinton vowed to appoint justices who would uphold the decision legalizing abortion.

The businessman entered the final de-

bate facing a string of sexual assault accusations from women who came forward after he denied in the previous contest that he had kissed or groped women without their consent. That Trump denial followed the release of a video in which he's heard bragging about exactly that.

Trump denied the accusations anew Wednesday night, saying the women coming forward "either want fame or her campaign did it."

Clinton said Trump "thinks belittling women makes him bigger." She avoided answering a question about her husband's infidelities.

Trump pressed Clinton on immigration, accusing her of wanting an "open borders" policy, a characterization she vigorously disputes. The Republican, who has called for building a wall the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, said that under a Clinton presidency, "People are going to pour into our country."

Clashing on trade, Trump said Clinton had misrepresented her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, noting that she had originally called it the "gold standard" of trade agreements. Clinton shot back that once the deal was finished, it didn't meet her standards. "I'll be against it when I'm president," she said.

On foreign policy, Clinton reassured her opposition to sending a large-scale U.S. troop presence to the Middle East to defeat the Islamic State group. She's backed a no-fly zone in Syria, which would mark an expansion of the current U.S. strategy.

For Trump, the debate marked one of his final chances to reshape a race that appears to be slipping away from him. Clinton's campaign is confidently expanding into traditionally Republican states, while Trump's narrow electoral path is shrinking.

Clinton has struggled throughout the campaign to overcome persistent questions about her honesty and trustworthiness. In the campaign's closing weeks, she's begun appealing to Americans to overcome the deep divisions that have been exacerbated by the heated campaign, saying on stage Wednesday that she intended to be a president for those who vote for her and those who do not. Clinton faced debate questions for the first time about revelations in her top adviser's hacked emails that show her striking a different tone in private than in public regarding Wall Street banks and trade. She quickly turned the discussion to Russia's potential role in stealing the emails.

Underscoring the deep discord between the candidates, they did not shake hands at the beginning or end of the debate.

Many voters still on fence

BY JEFF BAENEN
AND SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RIVER FALLS, Wis. — As a tumultuous campaign nears an end, undecided voters across the country watched the final debate of the U.S. presidential race with a mix of skepticism and rapt attention Wednesday night.

They were searching for clarity, and some found it. Others remained painfully undecided just a few weeks before the election, saying neither candidate won them over.

"I heard a lot of the same rhetoric spewed over and over again," said Clinton Holter, 41, who makes barbecue sauces and marinades in western Wisconsin. "I know I need to make a decision. I just don't know how to get there."

Watching the debate at Bo's N' Moe's bar and grill in River Falls, Holter took note when Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump again did not shake hands.

"He's just like a little kid," he said when Trump began speaking.

Still, the GOP candidate did a better job than in the first two debates, taking charge while Clinton stumbled, Holter said.

"She's no longer acting presidential" when she's interrupting Trump, he said.

Overall, he said, nothing either



MARK RALSTON/AP



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton squared off for a third and final debate Wednesday at UNLV in Las Vegas.

candidate said swayed him.

■ ■ ■
Chadd Bunker, 50, a union truck driver in Sparks, Nev., who considers himself largely politically apathetic, said after the debate he's still not sure if he will end up voting, but he doesn't think he'll cast his ballot for Trump.

The longtime LA Dodgers fan kept an eye on his laptop streaming the National League championship game with the Cubs while watching the debate in his living room with his wife, Karen, a staunch Democrat.

"I think Hillary kicked his butt. And that's my unbiased opinion, because I don't really care," said Bunker, an avid outdoorsman and gun owner. "She may be crooked. She may have done stuff, but she seems the most logical."

He doesn't think his life will change much regardless of who wins. He likes Trump's experience in the business world and believes Clinton would be better at handling foreign affairs.

"Neither one of them is going to come to my house and take my

guns," Bunker said.

"I don't know if I decided one way or the other. But if I did have to vote, I would probably vote for Hillary Clinton. I would not vote for Trump," Bunker said.

■ ■ ■
Taylor Botwinis, of Clinton Township, Mich., is 26, but this will be the first time she casts a ballot in a presidential election.

Clinton is a no-go for the home-schooling mother of three. For Botwinis, the debate was an opportunity to hear more from Trump and decide whether to support the Republican or vote for a third-party candidate.

She filled a page with handwritten notes early in the debate but put down her pen when the discussion slid into finger-pointing over ethics, morals and fitness for office.

"The first four issues — Supreme Court, Second Amendment, abortion, immigration — I could side with Trump," she said.

"Now they're nitpicking. They're just like kids."

Botwinis cringed when Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman."

"Even if he's thinking that — have a filter," she said.

Botwinis said she'll likely vote for Trump because of his "stances, not his personality."

■ ■ ■
Alanna Conti, 25, a graphic designer from rural Sweet Valley, Pa., changed her party registration from independent to Democrat so she could vote for Bernie Sanders.

After he lost the primary, she thought about casting her ballot for Libertarian Gary Johnson or Green Party candidate Jill Stein. But Conti doesn't want to throw away her vote so she's considering backing Trump or Clinton, even though "I dislike both of them very much."

As she watched the debate at her home, Conti drew two columns on a pad — one labeled Clinton, the other Trump — and quietly took notes.

Afterward, Conti said Clinton won on policy, as Clinton's views on guns, college and abortion

more closely align with hers.

Conti said she'll probably vote for Clinton.

■ ■ ■
For Justin Harris, both candidates had their moments in the debate, but neither really stood out. The 43-year-old father of three said he had hoped to hear more about foreign policy and economic issues and was frustrated when the candidates instead used their time to launch personal attacks. He scoffed and laughed toward the end of the debate when Clinton and Trump were talking over one another.

"I felt like I was in eighth grade or something," said Harris, who watched the debate at Big Al's bar in suburban Richmond while the other patrons continued watching sports.

Harris said he didn't like how Trump interrupted the moderator. But he also said he didn't think Clinton did a good job of actually answering the questions.

Harris says that after Wednesday's debate, he's leaning toward Trump.

NATION



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Madeline Dahl watches as Zach Forcade pulls out his cellphone while cardiac patient Stephen DeMont sits with them Wednesday at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle.

App helps save Seattle heart patient

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — If your heart is going to stop, right outside a hospital is not a bad place for it.

And if 41 people within a 330-yard radius have a cellphone app alerting them to your distress, so much the better.

That's what happened in Seattle last week when Stephen DeMont collapsed at a bus stop in front of University of Washington Medical Center.

While a medical student rushed over and began chest compressions, a cardiac nurse just getting off her shift was alerted by her phone, sprinted outside and assisted until paramedics arrived.

Five days later, DeMont, 60, is walking, smiling and talking about how the PulsePoint app helped save his life.

Seattle officials say the rescue shows the potential the free download has for connecting CPR-trained citizens with patients who urgently need their help. It's being used in 2,000 U.S. cities in 28 states.

"I put it on my phone yesterday," said DeMont's wife, Debi Quirk, a former registered nurse. "He would not be here as we see him today."

Seattle officials hope DeMont's story will help persuade thousands more people to sign up for notifications; so far, about 4,000 people in Seattle have downloaded PulsePoint since the city adopted it earlier this year with financial support from an employee charitable fund at Boeing. The goal is to have 15,000 using it.

Developed by a former fire chief in Northern California, Richard Price, the app works through a city's 911 system. When a call comes in, operators alert people within a certain radius that CPR assistance is needed, along with the location of the nearest portable defibrillator.

About 900,000 people around the country have downloaded and carry the app, and 34,000 people have been activated to respond, he said, adding that alerts have been issued in 13,000 cardiac events.

It's not clear how many lives have been saved thanks to the app. Patient confidentiality laws

often prevent hospitals from disclosing a patient's outcome.

Madeline Dahl, 23, a cardiac nurse at the University of Washington Medical Center, said she downloaded the app about a month ago after reading a news story that mentioned it. Last Friday morning was the first time she'd ever received an alert. She bolted down a couple of flights of stairs and ran outside into the rain, where she found medical student Zach Forcade, 27, performing chest compressions.

Forcade had been on his way into the hospital for a lecture when he saw DeMont, who was just getting off his bicycle, slump over.

"I hadn't responded to a cardiac arrest before," Forcade said. "I thought, 'Did he just fall?' ... Even being in the medical field, I thought, 'Oh, man, who's going to step up?'"

He told another passerby to call 911, which triggered an alert sent out to 41 responders nearby. It was reassuring when Dahl arrived to provide any needed backup, helped check for a pulse and otherwise made sure Forcade was responding correctly, he said.

Calif. AG leads Wells Fargo criminal probe

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's attorney general is conducting a criminal investigation into whether employees at San Francisco-based Wells Fargo bank stole customers' identities in the sales practices scandal that rocked the bank and cost its CEO his job, newly released documents show.

A search warrant and affidavit released Wednesday by the state Department of Justice show that agents sought evidence related to allegations that bank employees created up to 2 million bank and credit card accounts without customers' approval in order to meet sales goals.

The warrant, first reported by the Los Angeles Times, was

served Oct. 5. Copies obtained by The Associated Press under a public records request show Attorney General Kamala Harris' office sought the names of customers who had accounts opened without their permission, the names of employees who opened the accounts and their managers, and fees associated with the improperly opened accounts.

CDC expands Zika testing guidance for South Florida

By DANIEL CHANG
Miami Herald

MIAMI — Concerned that mosquitoes are spreading Zika throughout Miami-Dade County — and not just in the identified zones covering a section of Miami's Little River neighborhood and nearly all of Miami Beach — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday strengthened its guidance for pregnant women and urged them to get tested for the virus if they have visited any part of the county since Aug. 1.

The federal health agency's warning stressed Zika testing for all pregnant women who have lived in, traveled to, or had unprotected sex with someone who have lived in or traveled to any area of Miami-Dade since Aug. 1, or to any part of the 4.5-square-mile zone in Miami Beach since July 14.

The CDC also created two new categories for warning the public about geographic areas where Zika is spreading. Zones shaded in red indicate active transmission of the virus, and those in yellow urge caution because local spread has been identified but

might not be as intense.

An agency map updated Wednesday showed two sections of Miami-Dade in red — the zones in Little River and Miami Beach — and the entire county colored yellow.

"Zika continues to pose a threat to pregnant women living in or traveling to Miami-Dade County," Lyle Petersen, a physician and director of the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, said in a written statement.

Benjamin Haynes, a CDC spokesman, said the agency updated its guidance after state officials last week identified a one-square-mile zone in Miami's Little River neighborhood where mosquitoes are spreading Zika — but also because of the growing number of local infections occurring outside the identified zones.

In total, Florida health officials have reported 1,044 Zika infections statewide this year, with 184 local infections and 855 travel-related cases, including 110 pregnant women. An additional five cases are labeled "undetermined" after health officials failed to identify the area of exposure.

Strike enters 2nd day at 14 Pa. state universities

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Professors at 14 Pennsylvania state universities hit the picket lines Thursday as their strike entered its second day.

Members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties went on strike at Wednesday after contract negotiations with the state stalled. The union represents more than 5,000 faculty and coaches.

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education said it made concessions and gave the union its best offer Tuesday night.

At West Chester University, outside Philadelphia, a handful of picketers held signs reading "The faculty will not sacrifice quality," and others multitasked by walking their dogs on the line.

Spokesman Kenn Marshall said the state's governor was disappointed the union decided to strike because officials felt they had made significant progress

overnight toward a settlement.

The system said prior to the walkout that its latest proposal would provide raises to all permanent, full-time temporary officials members and a health care package identical to what other system employees have.

The state also reported it had withdrawn several proposals as part of those concessions in an effort to reach an agreement. Withdrawn proposals included one that would have required full-time, temporary faculty to teach an additional class each semester.

Late Wednesday night, the union said on its Facebook page that "the strike will end when negotiators reach a contract. Negotiations have not resumed."

The state has instructed its more than 100,000 students to attend classes unless the university indicates otherwise.

But many students said Wednesday their classes joined the walkout, leaving classrooms empty.

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NATION

After shooting, teens call for peace

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Students at two San Francisco schools where four classmates were shot in the parking lot the day before exited classes arm-in-arm and called for an end to violence.

The expressions of sadness and resolve came after classes resumed Wednesday at the June Jordan School for Equity and the City Arts and Technology High School with extra security in place.

The gunfire rang out as students were leaving Tuesday, creating chaos. Teachers herded students into classrooms, and the schools were locked down.

Some students wiped away tears as they recounted the scene. Devianna Lucero, 15, a sophomore, said she heard five or six loud bangs as she left school — at first thinking nothing of it. Then chaos erupted.

"At first, I didn't believe they were gunshots. I thought someone was banging on the wall," she said. "Then everyone was screaming and running to the classrooms."

Flowers were strewn in the parking lot Wednesday, along with messages scrawled in chalk that said, "No More Violence" and "All Lives Matter."

Police said they were looking for four suspects but did not how



SCOTT STRAZZANTE, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

Police stand at the site of a shooting Tuesday outside two San Francisco high schools where four students were shot in a parking lot shared by the schools.

many had opened fire, striking a female student who was believed to have been targeted and three other teens. All are 15.

Jessica Huang, a co-director at the June Jordan school, said the group that staged the attack were not students at the school. She said the girl underwent a successful surgery, and the other three had been released from the hospital.

Fernando Rodriguez, 16, a junior, told the San Francisco Chroni-

cle he stayed inside a classroom with dozens of other students and a teacher with the door bolted shut for about 30 minutes.

Police searched both schools to determine there was no shooter inside. Rodriguez said students and teachers were later told that the shooting had happened outside and that it was safe to leave.

Counselors were on hand Wednesday and security was increased, school officials said.

Deputy is fourth officer slain in 2 weeks in California

Associated Press

ALTURAS, Calif. — A deputy responding to a disturbance call in Northern California has been shot to death — the state's fourth law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in just two weeks.

Sheriff's deputies were dealing with the call on County Road 115, in a rural area near the Oregon border, when deputy Jack Hopkins, 31, was fatally shot. A suspect was detained shortly after, the sheriff's office said.

Hopkins joined the force last year, the office said.

A video titled "Deputy Jack Hopkins Procession" that was posted late Wednesday to the Modoc County Sheriff's Office's Facebook page showed about two dozen patrol cars with their emergency lights on riding down a town's street.

The Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Butte county sheriff's offices and the California Highway Patrol are investigating the shoot-

ing, the office said.

The California Highway Patrol, the Alturas Police Department and the U.S. Forest Service

responded to the scene after a call about an officer-involved shooting went out, the office said.

The Modoc County Sheriff's Office said in a state-

ment the deputy was involved in an active-shooter incident.

The deputy's shooting death comes after two Palm Springs police officers were recently shot and killed during a domestic disturbance call and a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant was gunned down in the high desert town of Lancaster while answering a burglary call.



Hopkins

Georgia executes man who killed police officer

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. — A man convicted of killing an Atlanta police officer and wounding a second officer with an AR-15 rifle was executed late Wednesday, becoming the seventh inmate put to death in Georgia this year.

Gregory Paul Lawler, 63, was pronounced dead at 11:49 p.m. after a lengthy execution. The state prison in Jackson after he was injected with the barbiturate pentobarbital. He was convicted of murder in the October 1997 slaying of Officer John Sowa and for critically wounding Officer Patricia Coccione.

The Georgia Supreme Court said in a statement Wednesday it unanimously denied defense requests to halt execution plans originally set for 7 p.m. Defense attorneys later appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which also declined to stop the execution. Lawler didn't make a final statement and refused a prayer. Then he lay on the gurney with his eyes closed as the lethal drug flowed, taking several deep breaths and yawning before becoming still.

Coccione sat in the front row of the witness area, as did Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, whose office prosecuted Lawler.

The seven executions in Georgia this year are the most in a calendar year in the state since the death penalty was reinstated nationwide in 1976.

Georgia is one of five states that carried out executions this year for a total of 17 nationwide. Texas has executed seven inmates, while Alabama, Florida and Missouri have executed one apiece.

Sowa and Coccione were responding to a report of a man hitting a woman and arrived at a parking lot to find Lawler trying to pull his drunken girlfriend to her feet. Lawler quickly left and went to his apartment nearby, and the officers decided to help his girlfriend get home.

When they knocked, Lawler told the officers to leave. Once his girlfriend was inside, he tried to shut the door on them. Sowa put his hand up to keep the door from shutting and said they just wanted to make sure the girlfriend lived there and would be safe.

Lawler grabbed an AR-15 rifle and fired 15 times, using bullets that can penetrate body armor, prosecutors said.

Lawler's attorneys argued that a diagnosis last month of autism spectrum disorder helps explain why their client acted as he did in the encounter with the officers. That disorder, which wasn't diagnosed at the time, caused Lawler to misinterpret the officers' intentions and led him to believe he was in danger and needed to fight for his life, his attorneys argued.

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles, which is the only authority in Georgia with power to commute a death sentence, declined to grant him clemency Tuesday.

NYC mayor: Police shooting 'unacceptable'

By TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City's mayor castigated a police sergeant Wednesday for fatally shooting a mentally ill woman brandishing a baseball bat, saying her "tragic" and "unacceptable" death resulted from failure to follow basic policies.

"Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with dire situation. It's very hard to see that standard was met," Mayor Bill de Blasio said. "Something went horribly wrong here."

The rebuke came less than 24 hours after Deborah Danner, 66, who is black, was shot to death in her Bronx apartment. And it came even as investigators were looking into why the white officer didn't call for an emergency services unit and didn't use his stun gun.

"If the protocols had been followed, she would be alive. It's as simple as that," the mayor said. Earlier, New York police Commissioner James O'Neill said his department "failed" by not using means other than deadly force.

"That's not how it's supposed to go," O'Neill said. "It's not how we train. Our first obligation is to preserve life, not to take a life when it's needed."

The head of the police union

"Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with a dire situation. It's ... hard to see that standard was met."

Bill de Blasio

mayor of New York City

representing sergeants, Ed Mullins, said the shooting was self-defense and bemoaned what he characterized as a politically motivated rush to judgment.

Police were responding to a 911 call about an emotionally disturbed person around 6:15 p.m. Tuesday when Sgt. Hugh Barry encountered Danner in her apartment, police said.

Officers had been called to Danner's home several times before to take her to the hospital during psychiatric episodes.

Barry persuaded Danner to drop a pair of scissors she had been holding, but when she picked up the bat and tried to strike him, he fired two shots that hit her torso, police said.

Danner's sister, Jennifer, was outside the apartment waiting to accompany her to the hospital, when the shots rang out, said the mayor.

Danner "had been sick since she was in college," her cousin,

Wallace Cooke Jr., said.

Cooke, 74, a retired police officer, said officers had been at her apartment "multiple, multiple times over the years." His cousin had recently stopped taking her medication, but "that's not an excuse to be dead."

Barry was stripped of his badge and gun and placed on desk duty while the state attorney general's office determines whether the case falls under its authority to investigate police shooting of unarmed civilians.

Court records show Barry was named as a defendant with other officers in two lawsuits alleging police brutality. Both suits were settled for a few thousand dollars.

New York City police respond to tens of thousands of calls about emotionally disturbed people each year. Officers and commanders receive training on how to deal with mentally ill people that includes instruction in techniques to "de-escalate" a situation.

NATION

Most US Syrian arrivals are kids, now entering school

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. — Seated at his desk at a suburban San Diego middle school, Abdulhamid Ashneh, 12, tries not to let his mind wander to the painful memories of his life in civil war-torn Syria.

His father disappeared suddenly four years ago and, the family believes, was killed. Months later, Abdulhamid's mother boarded a bus with her six children, the youngest 2, and fled to Jordan, the sound of bombs ringing in the distance.

"I think about my dad a lot," Abdulhamid said recently after practicing English at Cajon Valley Middle School, which has received an influx of Syrian children. "I wish he would come back."

Abdulhamid is like many of the Syrian refugees arriving today in the U.S. According to the U.S. State Department, nearly 80 percent of the more than 11,000 Syrian arrivals during the past year were children.

That's a larger percentage than in most refugee groups, in part because Syrians tend to have larger families and many have managed to stay together despite displacement, according to resettlement agencies. In El Cajon, one-on-one orientations introduce families to the school's teachers and staff and show them basics like how to read the district's academic-year calendar.

Many of those children are enrolling in public schools around the country, including Chicago; Austin, Texas; New Haven, Conn;

and El Cajon, which received 76 new Syrian students the first week of school.

Syrian children face many of the same challenges as other young refugees — limited English, an interrupted education — but they are somewhat distinct in the level of trauma they have experienced, school leaders and resettlement workers said.

"The truth is, a lot of them have seen some pretty nasty stuff," said Eyal Bergman, a family and community engagement officer for the Cajon Valley Union School District. "But I also see incredible resilience."

In response to the influx, school districts are beefing up English instruction and making extra efforts to reach out to parents unfamiliar with the U.S. school system. In El Cajon, one-on-one orientations introduce families to the school's teachers and staff and show them basics like how to read the district's academic-year calendar.

Some refugee students are enrolled in "newcomer" classes in which they are provided intense English instruction before being placed into mainstream classrooms. Others go directly into classes with English-fluent peers but are assigned to smaller groups for individual instruction. Teachers are trained in identifying trauma, and on-site counselors help students who need extra attention.

"I've had students tell me that maybe some of their family mem-

bers passed away," said Juanita Chavez, a second-grade teacher. "But I think a lot of them just want to focus on here, on learning. A lot of them don't focus on the negative things that have happened to them."

At night, Arabic-speaking staff and teachers hold a "parent academy" where newly arrived moms and dads are given bilingual children's books in English and Arabic and are guided on how to help improve literacy at home.

The rising number of Syrian refugee students comes amid a heated presidential campaign. During the second debate, Donald Trump called Hillary Clinton's plan to expand the Obama administration's refugee program and to accept 65,000 Syrian refugees the "great Trojan horse of all time."

Last November, in response to the deadly Paris attack believed carried out by operatives who fought and trained in Syria, nearly 30 states vowed to deny entry to Syrian refugees.

Resettlement agencies and school staff worry inflamed rhetoric about Muslims and Syrian refugees will trickle into the classroom. A report last year by the California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations found 50 percent of Muslim students surveyed were subjected to mean comments or rumors because of their religion.

"This is a concern of ours, to be watching that they do not feel



CHRISTINE ARMARIO/AP

Student Abdullah Arab, 11, center, helps classmates Habeebullah Najme, 12, left, and Nada Alradi, 11, in a room filled with refugee children Oct. 4 at Cajon Valley Middle School in El Cajon, Calif.

shunned or stigmatized because of their national origin," said Ellen Beattie, a senior director with the International Rescue Committee.

El Cajon, a city of roughly 104,000 people 15 miles east of San Diego, has become a melting pot of refugees from Uganda to Afghanistan. The first Middle Eastern immigrants were Chaldean Christians fleeing persecution in Iraq in the 1970s. Those earlier, now established waves of migrants are playing a role in helping settle the new arrivals from Syria.

"Most of them tell us the only reason they accepted the whole immigration process is really for their kids," said Anas Kayal, who emigrated to the U.S. from Syria in 2001 and is a physician in San Diego. "They are OK with their own lives being disrupted by the war and crisis, but they are hoping their kids can have a better life."

Watching her children learn English and adapt to U.S. schools has been redeeming for Abdul-

amid's mother after two years in Jordan, where she often struggled to feed them and at one point lived in a feeble tent that would blow apart in the wind.

"We're still trying to cope with this emotionally," Amena Alshehneh, 37, said. "But it's the reality. We have to face the reality and get on our feet."

As Abdulhamid assimilates, he still pines for his homeland and the life he left behind.

He remembers the Damascus home where he wrestled and practiced reading with his father. He remembers playing soccer and hide-and-seek with his best friend, and wonders what happened to him.

He also thinks about his computer and a remote-control car — cherished toys his father gave him and that he had to abandon.

"I feel so sad I left Syria," said Abdulhamid, whose expression quickly shifts from joy to grief. "Because it's my country. My home."

Final cleanup of Alaska automobile junkyard underway

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The final cleanup for the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 is underway.

For decades after the Good Friday quake, discarded vehicles were imbedded into the 250-foot cliff overlooking Cook Inlet and directly above a wildlife refuge important for migratory birds.

The vehicles started arriving after the second-most-powerful earthquake ever recorded devastated parts of south-central Alaska, including the then-young city of Anchorage. Debris from downed or damaged downtown buildings left cars unusable.

"At the time, in the 1960s, they brought the vehicles out here to an old gravel pit, crushed them, threw them over the side of a 250-foot-high bluff," said Joe Meehan, the land and refuge manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The department runs the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, off the bluff, where thousands of migratory birds stop every year.

Meehan said unwanted sand from the gravel pit also went over the bluff, burying the cars and helping them become part of the bluff in the city's expansive Kincaid Park.

The site was used as a dump site for at least a decade.

The official dumping of vehicles stopped here in the late 1970s after Earth



MARK THIESSEN/AP

A helicopter brings a 700-pound sack of car parts to a trash bin Wednesday in Anchorage, Alaska.

Day and environmental awareness came along," Meehan said.

It's estimated that about 2,000 vehicles

were dumped over the cliff, legally or illegally.

During the ongoing nine-year effort

to remove the cars, volunteers and staff members also have removed about 2,000 tires and about 100 tons of miscellaneous debris. Meehan said they've found "everything under the sun," from refrigerators to ovens to motorcycles.

That is in addition to about 100 vehicles that have been taken out for recycling, but they weren't all beaters from the 1960s.

"There was a fairly new vehicle, about a 3-year-old vehicle, that had been stolen and thrown over the edge," Meehan said.

In the past, workers waited until the marsh froze in the winter. They then were able to drive vehicles and heavy machinery on the ice to remove the cars from the bluff.

"Because of the warm winters we've been having, the marsh hasn't frozen and we decided this time around we're just going to use a helicopter to slingload all those parts out," he said.

The effort won't actually remove all 2,000 discarded vehicles. Workers have removed only cars that have reached the bottom of the bluff, near the marsh, to protect the wetlands and wildlife habitat. They are concerned that removing all of the cars could damage the bluff — and it would be very expensive. They are just going to let the cars that remain buried in the bluff to degrade over the centuries.

"Somebody comes back here in 500 years, they probably won't see anything except for a natural bluff," Meehan said.

WORLD

STRUGGLING TO STAY SAFE

IN THE WAKE OF DUTERTE'S DEADLY WAR ON DRUGS

By TODD PITMAN
Associated Press

The bodies terrified Betchie Salvador, because she always knew her husband could be next.

They had begun turning up all over the Philippines ever since President Rodrigo Duterte launched a controversial war on drugs this year — so many that one local newspaper had to create a “Kill List” just to keep track. Dealers and addicts were being shot by police or unidentified gunmen, who were dumping them on darkened streets beside cardboard signs that warned, “I’m a pusher. Don’t Be Like Me.”

With each new death, Betchie imagined losing the man she had loved for a decade — a proud father of three who was also an addict.

“We talked about it a lot,” she said. “I told him, ‘Please don’t go out at night.’” “Don’t worry,” Marcelo told her. “It’s gonna be OK.”

Marcelo, who worked as a driver, had been introduced to a potent methamphetamine known as “shabu” two years earlier by a colleague who said it helped him stay awake at night.

In his campaign for the presidency, Duterte described the drug as a life-or-death threat to a nation. And the nation, exasperated by decades of crime and corruption, believed him.

Duterte modeled his drug war in part

‘All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you. I have no patience, I have no middle ground.’

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

on a brutal anti-crime campaign he spearheaded while mayor of Davao, where he rode a Harley-Davidson and cultivated a New Sheriff in Town image, with nicknames like “Duterte Harry” and “The Punisher.” The campaign was fought not just by state security forces, but by motorcycle-riding assassins known as the “Davao Death Squads” who massacred more than 1,000 people.

Duterte’s speeches were often fueled by provocative statements. He has encouraged the police to eliminate drug suspects, even called on the public to “do it yourself if you have the gun.” On his last day of campaigning on May 7, he said: “All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you. I have no patience, I have no middle ground.”

After he was sworn into office June 30, the anti-drug operation — called “Double Barrel” — began. Police drew up “watch-lists” of suspected addicts and dealers, and security forces began carrying out raids. Vigilantes also went to work. Near Marcelo’s home, a couple was found murdered in their rickshaw. Later, another man was found with his neck slashed beside a placard labeling him an addict and a thief.

By then, Marcelo’s family was starting to fear for his life. He made a living driving a “tricycle,” a rickshaw taxi — earning just enough to support their two boys, ages 6 and 7, and a newborn baby girl. His mother, Betty Soriano, decided to accompany him to keep him safe and discourage him from doing drugs.

Marcelo also promised to quit shabu, saying it had become too dangerous. He told Betchie she didn’t have to worry “because I’m not using drugs anymore.”

At one point, a government official told Marcelo to turn himself in, a process called “surrendering” that has drawn about 700,000 drug users so far. Most are released after acknowledging their

crimes and pledging never to use again.

Marcelo waved the man off, saying he had quit.

On the night of Sept. 5, Marcelo parked his rickshaw at a small roadside kiosk, where he had stopped to buy essentials for the morning — coffee for his family, chocolate drinking powder for his kids.

When Malvin Balingatan, who worked at the shop, leaned forward to hand him change, shots rang out, according to the police report.

It was 10:05 p.m.

As Balingatan ducked, he caught a glimpse of two men in black on a motorcycle, helmets covering their faces.

Marcelo managed to run 10 or 15 yards to the corner, where more shots were fired. He collapsed.

His mother screamed out, “My son! My son!”

At their family home, a five-minute walk away, Soriano broke the news to Betchie. Marcelo’s children appeared, woken by the chaos and the crying.

“Where’s Daddy?” one of them asked. “Where’s Daddy?”

“He’s gone,” Betchie replied, tears streaming down her cheeks.

By the time Betchie got to the scene, Marcelo — her Marcelo — was sprawled face-down in a pool of blood, his body lit by a halo of light from a bank of television cameras. A small translucent packet of white methamphetamines was visible beside his fingertips.

Her mother-in-law insists the drugs weren’t there when he died. She doesn’t know who put them there, or why. But she won’t press the issue with police,

who say they have no leads. “We don’t want any trouble,” she said. “What’s the point? What for?”

Betchie said she hopes they find who did this. But there was resignation in her voice. She was looking down toward her lap, eyes half closed.

Three days had passed since the shooting, and she was trying not to cry.

“I keep wondering what will happen to me, to my children,” she said, explaining that Marcelo, 39, was their family’s sole breadwinner. “All we can do now is pray.”



PHOTOS BY AARON FAVILA/AP

Above: Betchie Salvador, center, the wife of alleged drug user Marcelo Salvador, his mother and family members grieve during funeral rites at their house in Las Pinas, south of Manila, Philippines, on Sept. 14. Top: Police investigators inspect the body of Salvador after he was shot by unidentified men on Sept. 5.

WORLD

Report: Greece, EU fail refugees

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The international aid group Doctors Without Borders says refugees at camps in Greece are still living in mostly “appalling conditions” with poor access to health care and a lack of provisions to identify the most vulnerable.

In the highly critical report issued Thursday, the agency commonly known by its French name, Medecins sans Frontieres, argued that the European Union and Greece had “collectively failed to establish humane and dignified reception conditions.”

More than 60,000 refugees and migrants — many escaping wars in Syria and Iraq — have been stranded in Greece following European border closures this year. Most still live in tents at about 50 refugee camps.

Around 14,000 of them are



PETROS GIANNAKOPOULOS/AP

A Syrian woman cooks outside her tent Wednesday at the Ritsona refugee camp north of Athens, Greece. Doctors Without Borders criticizes conditions for refugees in Greece in a new report.

confined to islands in the eastern Aegean Sea where they are being processed for potential deportation to nearby Turkey.

“The leaders of Greece and the EU keep telling us this is a success, but it isn’t. The reception system for refugees in Greece has failed,” said Loic Jaeger, country mission head for MSF.

At the garbage-strewn refugee camp of Ritsona, 50 miles north of Athens, children walk barefoot and families in tents used wooden pallets for flooring to stay above the mud and try to stay warm.

“It’s very bad. How can I explain; I mean very bad,” Syrian refugee Youssef Hanash said. “Can you imagine living in a tent with six persons and if you have a newborn baby how the situation will be?”

Hanash said he came to Europe as a last resort, unable to keep his family safe after his cheese factory was destroyed in the war and he moved around Syria.

MSF urged the government to seek alternatives to the refugee camp system and improve a screening process to identify

vulnerable migrants and improve training for health screeners, while it called on the EU to provide emergency financial support to the state health system.

Greece’s government has repeatedly defended its record in dealing with the refugee crisis, noting that more than 1 million refugees and migrants traveled through the country since the beginning of 2015, stretching state resources already under pressure from years of recession after the country came to the brink of financial collapse.

UK warships to watch Russian ship in channel

LONDON — Britain is sending warships to monitor a Russian aircraft carrier group and other vessels as they sail through the North Sea and the English Channel.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said Thursday that the military will watch the vessels “every step of the way.”

The aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its task group are heading south from the Norwegian Sea toward the North Sea. The Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan sailed from Portsmouth to monitor the group.

The Royal Navy regularly shadows ships, and is being supported in this instance by the Royal Air Force.

Meanwhile, the Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon is due to sail to meet two Russian corvettes traveling toward Britain from the direction of Portugal.

Brazil impeachment leader arrested

RIO DE JANEIRO — The powerful former speaker of Brazil’s lower house who spearheaded the ouster of President Dilma Rousseff was arrested Wednesday as part of a sprawling graft probe involving state oil giant Petrobras.

Federal deputy Eduardo Cunha, who until recently was a key ally of President Michel Temer, is accused of corruption, money laundering and tax evasion related to an oilfield purchase that Petrobras made in 2011 in the west African nation of Benin, among a series of other charges.

Prosecutors said in a statement that they requested Cunha’s detention on the grounds that he represented a threat to the integrity of the investigation and was a flight risk. They also asked for bank accounts he holds totaling more than \$60 million to be frozen.

In a statement, the former lawmaker said the arrest was “absurd.”

From The Associated Press

Spain’s high court overrules local bullfighting ban

By CIARAN GILES

Associated Press

MADRID — Spain’s top court on Thursday overruled a local ban against bullfighting in the powerful northeastern region of Catalonia, saying it violated a national law protecting the spectacle.

The Constitutional Court ruled that Catalan authorities generally could regulate such public spectacles, and even ban them, but in

this case the national parliament’s ruling that bullfighting is part of Spain’s heritage must prevail.

Catalonia stirred controversy when it banned bullfighting in 2010, becoming Spain’s second region to do so after the Canary Islands in 1991.

The decision was part of the growing movement against bullfighting but it was also seen as another step in the Catalan gov-

ernment’s push to break away from Spain.

The ban had little practical effect as Catalonia had only one functioning bullring, in its capital, Barcelona.

Catalan government officials said earlier this month that bullfighting would not be allowed again in the region. The last bullfight in Catalonia was in 2011 before the region’s ban took effect.

The court ruling followed a challenge to the ban by the conservative Popular Party headed by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Catalonia said it banned bullfighting to protect bulls but it did not prohibit events featuring bulls running around with flaming balls of wax or fireworks affixed to their horns that are popular in the region.



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5K RUN & WALK

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FAITH



Left: Ultra-Orthodox Jewish youths walk in the city of Elad, Israel. Mayor Yisrael Porush, member of a prominent haredi family, said his main objective was to develop the city and provide opportunities for residents.

Below: Health Minister Yaakov Litzman is the senior representative of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israeli government. He doesn't apologize for the insular lifestyle he advocates.

PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP



TSAFIR ABAYOV/AP

Looking ahead

New generation of Israeli ultra-Orthodox challenges old guard

By ARON HELLER
Associated Press

As the senior representative of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel's government, Health Minister Yaakov Litzman is unapologetic about the insular lifestyle he advocates, despite irking mainstream Israel and endangering its long-term economic prospects. He insists that shirking compulsory military service, rejecting secular education and raising large families on state subsidies all serve the noblest of purposes: a life devoted to the study of scripture that has preserved Jewish traditions over centuries and will ultimately bring about the coming of the Messiah.

"To sit and learn is a mitzvah," or commandment from God, he told The Associated Press. "It is the most important thing."

But the parochial establishment he represents is increasingly being challenged by a new generation of ultra-Orthodox Jews who are demanding academic degrees, satisfying professions, a bigger role for women and greater immersion in Israeli society.

"We are looking into the future, what will become of the next generation," said Avigayil Karlinsky, a 28-year-old social activist. "I am part of the larger Israel and I want my voice to be heard."

She said the ultra-Orthodox leadership's aversion to progress and integration is mostly about maintaining political power rather than serving their constituents. Until recently, such open criticism was unheard of, but it is gaining traction as people like Karlinsky try to change their world from within.

Experts have long warned that the ultra-Orthodox community's high birthrate and poverty levels, along with low rates of employment and education, could doom

We are looking into the future, what will become of the next generation. I am part of the larger Israel and I want my voice to be heard."

— social activist Avigayil Karlinsky

Israel's economic prospects. Many ultra-Orthodox acknowledge that, but they reject any outside effort to enforce changes and insist the process has to happen at its own pace. Critics inside and outside the community say a more comprehensive reform is needed, including greater emphasis on teaching children math, English and computer literacy. There also are growing calls for outreach to Israel's secular majority.

The ultra-Orthodox, or "haredim" — Hebrew for "those who fear God" — are the fastest growing sector in Israel. They make up about 11 percent of Israel's 8.5 million citizens, with the majority living beneath the poverty line, according to a recent study by the Israel Democracy Institute, an independent think tank. With a growth rate four times that of the general Jewish population, their numbers are expected to rise to 14 percent in 2024, 19 percent in 2039 and 27 percent in 2059, the think tank predicted.

Gilad Malach, a researcher who specializes in the community, said reform was already underway. He said a majority of haredi men now work, compared with just a third in 2003. Women continue to be the primary breadwinners, and their employment rates of close to 75 percent are comparable to those of the general public, he said.

The number of ultra-Orthodox joining the military and pursuing degrees has also quietly grown, but "modern" haredim like Karlinsky still only make up about 10 percent of the community, Malach said. He said the leadership hopes it stay that way.

"Their approach is 'nothing has changed,'" said Malach. "But regular people are more sophisticated than that. Every mainstream haredi knows he has to make adjustments."

The state offers specialized training programs, study grants and other incentives to haredim, but they have to be handled with care so as not to come off as patronizing. While leading rabbis and their representatives in parliament have given their blessing to some projects, they have offered none of their own.

"There is no vision. That's the real problem," said Malach. "They don't have any plans and it would be best if the push came from them."

Litzman, who has gained popularity with the general public as health minister by campaigning against junk food and advocating for medical marijuana, has defied calls to change his community. He points to low crime rates as evidence of their superior values and insists that intensive Jewish studies at an early age instill lifelong learning skills that allow haredim to easily pick up professions later in life.

There is always new ways and new things which we have to get used to and check out if we can live with it, but there

is no change in halacha," or Jewish law, he said. "Until the Messiah will come, it will stay like that."

Karlinsky said she too is guided by her religious beliefs, but takes issue with what she considers a hypocritical approach of a leadership that clings to tradition to maintain control and reinforce a false sense of victimhood. Her husband was a star seminary student in Jerusalem until he decided it wasn't for him. He turned to computer programming and now works among secular colleagues at Google in Tel Aviv. She established the Torah Hub, a Facebook support group for like-minded haredim, and another for victims of sexual abuse in the community — another previously taboo topic. She plans to send her two young children to ultra-Orthodox schools but also make sure they learn English so they have more options later in life.

"I'm not afraid of change," she said, dismissing long-held fears that immersion would lead to assimilation. "Perhaps those who are so afraid of being tempted by secularism don't have strong enough faith to begin with."

In Elad, a central Israeli city of 50,000 mostly haredi residents, the ultra-Orthodox are seeking a happy medium. It boasts the highest rates of employment, salaries and high school matriculation of all haredi communities in Israel. It also prides itself in having clean streets, close ties to neighboring Arab towns, and ample public services like libraries, theaters and community centers.

Mayor Yisrael Porush, 35, a father of six and scion of a prominent haredi family, said his main objective was to develop the city and provide opportunities for residents. "It's opening the door for them and it doesn't come at the expense of study," he said. "The world is moving forward and everyone wants to feel equal."

He deferred larger questions about haredi society to the rulings of the great rabbis, but clearly reveled in the companies and colleges that had opened branches in his city and accommodated haredi needs, such as separate working spaces for men and women, and flexible hours for working mothers. He said such an approach would be much more effective than open confrontation.

"Everyone understands that you have to provide for your family," he said. "But if you come at it with a gun, or with a whip, or threats, we have a problem."



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FACES



From left: Kelsea Ballerini, Jill Scott and Meghan Trainor perform a tribute to Shania Twain, below, during the CMT Artists of the Year awards show on Wednesday in Nashville. "I want to thank CMT for being such a huge support all these years even in my more rebellious years in the beginning when I was probably considered controversial, but you still put me on the air," Twain said. The show airs Saturday on AFN-Prime Pacific.

PHOTOS BY INVISION/AP



Women of country rock

Female singers honor Shania Twain at CMT Artists of the Year

Associated Press

Country singers Shania Twain, Carrie Underwood and Kelsea Ballerini honored each other and celebrated their shared successes at the CMT Artists of the Year show. Female singers rocked the stage, geeked out over on another and showcased women's impact on country music's past, present and future during the award show held Wednesday

at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville. The show will air on AFN-Prime Pacific on Saturday. Twain, who is country music's most successful female singers, was given the artist of the lifetime award and was serenaded with a medley of her songs by female artists across three genres. Grammy winners pop singer Meghan Trainor and R&B singer Jill Scott joined Ballerini to sing Twain's

classic anthem to female strength, "Man, I Feel Like a Woman," while Twain sang along from her seat in the crowd. Twain made her name in the mid-'90s with her big pop country songs and her music videos that combined sex appeal, female empowerment and high fashion. "I want to thank CMT for being such a huge support all these years even in my more rebellious years in the beginning

when I was probably considered controversial, but you still put me on the air," Twain said. Ballerini, who was given the breakout artist honor, was in the middle of her speech noting all the other young female singers she has worked with when she stopped to have a fan-girl moment. "Whoa, I am nervous," Ballerini said. "That is Shania Twain," pointing to the Grammy winner in the audience. Underwood, who was one of the artists of the year, performed "Like I'll Never Love You Again," backed up by hit songwriters Liz Rose, Hillary Lindsey and Lori McKenna. "Aren't we blessed?" Underwood said. "God is good, and he has definitely been good to me." Also honored was an artist of the year was Chris Stapleton, who performed a solo rendition of "Whiskey and You." Luke Bryan was also honored as an artist of the year. The duo Florida Georgia Line also was honored as an artist of the year.



Jay Z

First rapper nominated for Songwriters Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Jay Z, one of contemporary music's most celebrated lyricists and entertainers, is one of the nominees for the 2017 Songwriters Hall of Fame, and if inducted he would become the first rapper to enter the prestigious music organization. Jay Z is the first rapper to be nominated for the Songwriters Hall of Fame. The Songwriters Hall gave The Associated Press the list of nominees Thursday, a day ahead of its official announcement. Other nominees that could be inducted next year are George Michael,

Madonna, Bryan Adams, Vince Gill, Babyface, Max Martin, Kool & the Gang and more. Eligible members can vote for three non-performing songwriters and two performing songwriters until Dec. 16. Five songwriters, or songwriting groups, will be officially inducted in June. Other performing nominees include Cat Stevens, Sly Stone, Chicago, Gloria Estefan, Jeff Lynne and David Gates. Songwriters are eligible for induction after writing hit songs for at least 20 years. Jay Z released his debut album, "Reasonable Doubt," in 1996.

Is Bon Jovi buying NFL team? Singer clears up rumors

From wire reports

Bon Jovi's upcoming album is entitled "This House is Not For Sale," and apparently neither are the Tennessee Titans. Earlier this week, CBS Sports reported that Bon Jovi and Peyton Manning were "monitoring the Tennessee Titans ownership situation," leading to speculation they were looking to purchase the Nashville-based team. That prompted Titans acting owner, Amy Adams Strunk, to say the team is not for sale. On Wednesday, Jon Bon Jovi sat down with The Associated Press to set the record straight. "Let me dispel the rumors right now," he said with a laugh. "I wake up to these headlines with my name on them, and they're just not true. I want to make it perfectly clear that the team is not for sale, nor has it ever been, and I respect and admire (late franchise founder) Bud Adams' legacy. End of story. I wish them all the success in the world." He added: "You wake up to that and you're, 'Wait a minute. I don't want to upset anybody. I didn't do anything.'" While the New Jersey rocker hopes to add NFL owner to his résumé one day, it's not happening yet. "I love the NFL, and I did in fact try to buy the Buffalo Bills, but this has nothing to do with that. All I'm doing — I'm in the music business. End of story."

Other news

■ "This Is Spinal Tap" writer and star Harry Shearer has sued Vivendi and subsidiary Studio-

Canal, which hold the rights to the classic 1984 mockumentary, for \$125 million. Shearer claims that fuzzy accounting prevented him and the three other writer-stars (Christopher Guest, Rob Reiner and Michael McKean) from collecting a potential bundle of licensing and ancillary music revenue. How little? Shearer says the principals have each been paid \$81 for merchandise and \$98 for music in the entire 32 years since the film's release. ■ Amy Schumer has issued a sarcastic apology days after some people walked out of a Tampa, Fla., show in which she criticized Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The comedian read a "Dear Tampa" letter during her show Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden in New York. She questioned how she could think it was "OK to spend five minutes having a peaceful conversation with someone with different views." ■ Actress Shailene Woodley has pleaded not guilty in a North Dakota court to criminal trespass and riot charges after her arrest in a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline. Court records show the "Divergent" star entered her pleas on Tuesday through her attorney, Alexander Reichert. Woodley and 26 other activists were arrested Oct. 10. ■ Bobby Shmurda, a rapper once on the rise thanks to a viral music video that popularized the Shmoney dance, was sentenced to seven years in prison Wednesday after claiming he was railroaded into taking a guilty plea on charges he conspired with a violent drug gang. The 22-year-old Shmurda, whose birth name is Ackquille Pollard, is best known for the hit "No Boy," a gritty song with rhymes about gunplay.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets prison in death of a neighbor

NE OMAHA — A 56-year-old man has been imprisoned for killing his Omaha neighbor.

Robert Inman was sentenced Tuesday to eight to 10 years in prison. He'd pleaded no contest to a manslaughter charge in the death of John Hanes, 48. The two lived near each other at a mobile home park.

Prosecutors say Hanes took a meal of pot roast, potatoes and carrots to Inman's home early in the morning on Aug. 29, 2015, in hopes of partying. That pre-dawn disruption of their sleep angered Inman and his roommate. Prosecutors say a fight broke out, and Inman put Hanes in a chokehold to subdue him.

Inman says he called 911 after realizing Hanes wasn't breathing.

Democrats apologize for dumping sewage

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — The Democratic National Committee has apologized after one of its campaign buses was spotted dumping raw sewage along a road outside Atlanta.

News outlets report a Lawrenceville auto shop employee alerted police Tuesday morning after witnessing the sewage getting dumped into a storm drain. The bus, which bears the slogan "Forward Together" and features the likenesses of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and running mate Tim Kaine, was in town for an early voting event.

The DNC apologized in a statement, calling it "an honest mistake." A representative later said the sewage container was full and the driver was concerned about the contents leaking.

Gwinnett County fire hazmat crews cleaned up the spill. Georgia's Environmental Protection Division is investigating.

University creates post to honor native artist

ME ORONO — The University of Maine is creating the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature in honor of one of its most famous graduates. The university is collecting applications from English professors to fill the position now. The appointment is set to begin August 2017 and is a five-year, renewable term.

The university says the position is tenured and it's designed to honor UMaine English department's "most celebrated graduate." The school says the position will have undergraduate education as a central focus.

King graduated from the university in 1970 with a degree in English. His first novel, "Carrie," was published four years later, and he has been one of America's most beloved horror and fantasy authors for four decades.

4 pigs escape, others killed as hauler crashes

AZ LITTLEFIELD — Four pigs escaped and several were killed when a tractor-trailer rig carrying 172 hogs

THE CENSUS

549

The number of bears killed in New Jersey's first expanded black bear hunt in more than three decades, which ended just days after lawmakers advanced a measure that would remove the animals from a list of game species. Hunters could only use bows and arrows to kill their prey during the first three days of the six-day hunt, and muzzle-loading guns were added during the second half. New Jersey approved resuming the bear hunt in 2003 after more than 30 years as a way to curb a growing population that was increasingly crossing paths with humans. The first hunt didn't take place until 2010. Animal rights' groups and lawmakers say the hunt causes more problems and is "inhumane." The firearm-only season for bear hunting this year is scheduled to take place from Dec. 5-10.



GARY COSBY JR., TUSCALOOSA (ALA.) NEWS/AP

Strolling into the light

A student moves through a pattern of light and shadow Tuesday in the atrium on his way to class at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

crashed into a barrier wall along Interstate 15 in a gorge in northwestern Arizona.

The Monday afternoon accident closed southbound I-15 well into Monday evening, and the Arizona Department of Transportation said the left-hand lane remained closed Tuesday morning.

The Department of Public Safety said motorists helped corral pigs that got onto the highway in the Virgin River Gorge between Mesquite, Nev., and St. George, Utah.

Youth center fined for head-banging injuries

MN ST. CLOUD — A St. Cloud youth center was fined after authorities say three teenagers suffered injuries from "daily and persistent" head-banging.

The Department of Human Services said the incidents at St. Cloud Children's Home took place in May and resulted in multiple concussions, facial injuries and

head trauma. State investigators found that facility managers either instructed staff to allow the head-banging or to not intervene until there was "imminent" damage.

The teens suffered from a range of mental health conditions, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, intense anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

The center has been ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and submit a plan on training staff on head and brain injuries. Trina Dietz, with center operator Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, said the facility plans to appeal.

University condemns accusatory posters

CA SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco State University officials are condemning posters accusing a professor specializing in Palestinian studies of collaborating with terrorists.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that the David Horowitz Freedom Center has taken

credit for the postings. The posters single out Ethnic Studies associate professor Rabah Ibrahim Abdulhadi and carry the hashtag #JewHatred.

President Les Wong sent a campuswide email last week saying the posters were bullying. They were quickly taken down.

Native American art licenses considered

NM SANTA FE — Santa Fe city officials are considering requiring businesses to secure licenses to sell authentic Native American art.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported that a proposal endorsed Monday by the City Council's Finance Committee would create a Native American Arts or Crafts District and require businesses selling such items to obtain a special business license.

The license would require business owners to clearly distinguish between authentic tribal art and other items, to display a sticker

at their entrance stating that they are selling Native American arts or crafts and to have a display at the cash register informing customers of their rights.

Man pleads guilty in Social Security theft

NH CONCORD — A New Hampshire man has pleaded guilty to taking more than \$101,000 in Social Security benefits erroneously paid to his dead mother.

Robert Duquette, of Hudson, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of theft of public money.

Court records say Duquette's mother was receiving widow's benefits from the Social Security Administration at the time of her death in October 2006. After she died, benefits were still deposited into a bank account that the 74-year-old Duquette held jointly with his mother. Court papers say the benefits were suspended in April 2014.

From wire reports

Tesla equipping cars to be autonomous

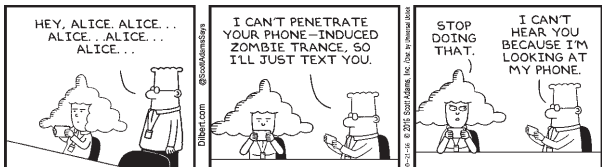
Tesla's future cars will have eight cameras instead of the single one currently on the vehicles running the Autopilot system. They will have sensors with twice the range as the current vehicles and have 40 times more computing power capable of performing 12 trillion operations per second, according to Musk.

Portoallo	67	33	Cr	Sioux City	65	36	Pcidly
Pontrean, Maine	63	51	Rain	Sioux Falls	62	38	Pcidly
Poultier	60	51	Cidy	South Bend	53	43	Cridy
Pueblo	78	30	Cr	Springfield, Mo.	57	40	Cridy
Portland, Durham	68	38	Pcidly	Springfield, Mo.	63	40	Cridy
Rapid City	76	41	Cr	Tallahassee	81	64	Cridy
Reynolds	62	39	Rain	Tampa	84	69	Cridy
Roanoke	63	59	Rain	Tucson	66	40	Cridy
Rochester	53	48	Rain	Topeka	62	41	Cridy
Rodgers	54	34	Cr	Tucson	95	68	Cridy
Sacramento	80	47	Cr	Tulsa	68	50	Cridy
St. Louis	74	35	Cr	Tulsa	68	50	Cridy
St. Petersburg	84	72	Cr	Union	68	50	Cridy
St. Thomas	85	41	Pcidly	Washington	72	63	Rain
Salem, Ore.	69	42	Cr	W. Palm Beach	83	70	Cridy
Sal Lake City	69	42	Cr	Wichita Falls	74	45	Cr
San Antonio	75	46	Cr	Wichita Falls	74	45	Cr
San Diego	88	66	Cr	Wichita Falls	74	45	Cr
San Francisco	72	35	Cr	Yakima	59	40	Pcidly
San Jose	71	37	Cr	Youngstown	53	47	Rain
Santa Fe	75	35	Cr				
St. Ste. Marie	46	37	Cr				
Savannah	81	61	Pcidly				
Seattle	57	48	Rain				
Shelby	57	48	Rain				

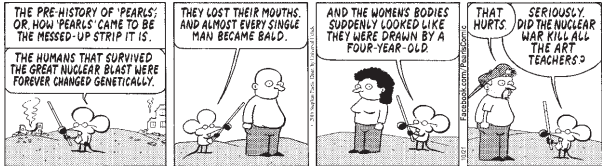
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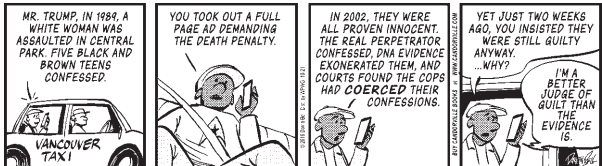
Pearls Before Swine



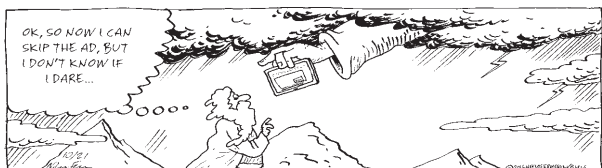
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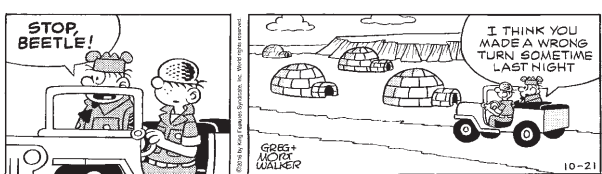
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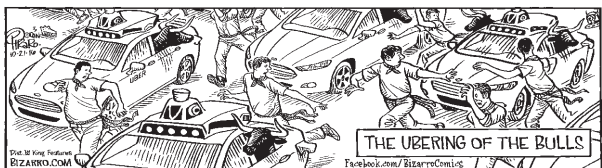
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
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56								57			58	

ACROSS

- 1 Wee dollop
- 4 Shade tree
- 7 Hot dog dish
- 12 Ram's mate
- 13 Conk out
- 14 Perfectly timed
- 15 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
- 16 Laundry cleaner
- 18 Spanish gold
- 19 Open-mouthed
- 20 Reporter's quest
- 22 Yalie
- 23 Writer James
- 27 Math ratios
- 29 Convincing, as an argument
- 31 Washroom tub
- 34 Pale purple
- 35 Pressing
- 37 Capitol Hill VIP
- 38 Wagers
- 39 Sinbad's bird
- 41 Glitz partner
- 45 Casino "boxcars"
- 47 Goose, in
- 48 Guadalupe
- 48 Rigoorous
- 54 — Beta Kappa
- 53 Vowel group
- 54 Pro vote
- 55 A billion years

- 56 Fix, as software
- 57 Superlative suffix
- 58 Orange Muppet
- 25 Disney deer
- 26 List-ending abbr.
- 28 Hostel
- 30 Flamenco cheer
- 31 Fella
- 32 Exist
- 33 Pvt.'s superior
- 36 Advanced math
- 37 Parts of acts
- 40 Daisy variety
- 42 Actress/singer
- Jennifer
- 43 "Bless you!" trigger
- 9 High card
- 10 Convent dweller
- 11 Congeal
- 17 Grand tale
- 21 Covert agents
- 23 Getting on
- 51 Debtor's letters

DOWN

- 1 English cattle breed
- 2 Cognizant
- 3 Underneath
- 4 Icelandic saga
- 5 Feudal lords
- 6 Gold or silver
- 7 Drill
- 8 Chang's brother
- 9 High card
- 10 Convent dweller
- 11 Congeal
- 17 Grand tale
- 21 Covert agents
- 23 Getting on
- 51 Debtor's letters

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	S	H		R	U	T	H		E	S	S	O		
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10-21

CRYPTOQUIP

IWUFTH ZABAMBRJA LFIADRTB

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TUWDD, DWMK UWBT: WXBQHX

MFLWL ZFRDK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FELLOW OPENING BIRTHDAY GIFTS IS UNAVAILABLE TO VISIT RIGHT NOW. HE IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

STARS AND STRIPES

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OPINION

The 3 times Trump disqualified himself

By DANIEL W. DREZNER
Special to The Washington Post

Wednesday night's third presidential debate was the most substantive of the three (an admittedly super-low bar). Chris Wallace did an excellent job of moderating and made the wise tactical decision to open with policy questions before turning to both candidates' scandals for a brief spell, and then pivoting back to policy. Donald Trump seemed to have prepped more for this debate than either of the first two, and occasionally got in some sharp attack lines on Hillary Clinton's record.

And yet, nothing in the above paragraph matters, because on at least three separate occasions, Trump said something that made it pretty clear he is radically unfit to be the president of the United States. Let's just list them here for posterity:

1) Refusing to say he would accept the election results if he lost.

If you're Donald Trump, or a Republican politician who has endorsed Donald Trump, it was not good that Thursday morning's front page of major newspapers bannered this response.

I'm not going to declare this point as it is the story of the day and analyzing it, like almost all analysis of Trump, leads you to the same conclusion. But to give an example of how serious Trump's breach of political norms was, let's go to the Twitter feed of Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations: "Defining feature of American democracy is the legitimacy of a peaceful transfer of power. World will note that this is no longer a given."

Haass is obligated by his position to be strictly nonpartisan on matters pertaining to presidential elections. Tweeting this is the CFR equivalent of saying that Trump has crossed waaaaaay over the line with his statements.

2) Refusing to acknowledge the intelligence community's consensus that Russia is responsible for hacking email accounts

to interfere with this election.

A joint DHS/ODNI statement makes the assessment of the intelligence community crystal clear: Trump was informed of this assessment as part of the intelligence briefings he receives as the GOP nominee. And yet this exchange took place Wednesday night.

CLINTON: I think that this is such an unprecedented situation. We've never had a foreign government trying to interfere in our election. We have 17 — 17 intelligence agencies, civilian and military, who have all concluded that these espionage attacks, these cyberattacks, come from the highest levels of the Kremlin and they are designed to influence our election. I find that deeply disturbing.

WALLACE: Secretary Clinton ...

CLINTON: And I think it's time you take a stand.

TRUMP: She has no idea whether it's Russia, China, or anybody else.

CLINTON: I am not quorning myself.

TRUMP: She has no idea.

CLINTON: I am quoting 17.

TRUMP: Hillary, you have no idea.

CLINTON: ... 17 intelligence — do you doubt 17 military and civilian.

TRUMP: And our country has no idea.

CLINTON: ... agencies.

TRUMP: Yeah, I doubt it. I doubt it.

CLINTON: Well, he'd rather believe Vladimir Putin than the military and civilian intelligence professionals who are sworn to protect us.

Seriously, what can you say about this? I get the idea that presidents should interrogate and question the intelligence community. I get guarding against groupthink. But this is Trump unilaterally asserting without any foundation whatsoever that he knows what he's talking about and intelligence professionals don't.

In this section of the debate Trump combined the worst aspects of his personality: his stupidity, his arrogance and his vanity. The only conclusion one can draw is that Trump refused to criti-

cize Russia because he likes the fact that Vladimir Putin said nice things about him. And if that's the way Trump makes decisions, he should be kept as far away from the Oval Office as possible.

And finally ...

3) Refusing to act like a mature adult.

The moment this debate turned was when Clinton dropped this line in response to an immigration question: "When it comes to the wall that Donald talks about building, he went to Mexico, he had a meeting with the Mexican president. Didn't even raise it. He choked and then got into a Twitter war because the Mexican president said we're not paying for that wall."

Clinton was obviously baiting Trump with that line — and yet, the baiting obviously worked. The moment Clinton said the word "choked," Trump's eyes narrowed into slits. Whatever self-control he'd managed to muster in the opening sections melted away. He melted down on the Putin jab. He said to Clinton, "You're the puppet! No, you're the puppet!" sounding even more immature than usual. He kept interrupting her. He even challenged Wallace a few times. And then, at the very end of the debate, came the moment when Clinton was discussing her plans for Social Security and Trump interjected, "Such a nasty woman."

What a sorry, immature specimen of a human being.

In the third debate, Trump vindicated Clinton's scorching attack during the general election campaign: that Trump is temperamentally unfit to be president.

The instant debate polls suggested that Clinton won these debates, but that's not the important part. The important part is that Trump lost the last chance he had to change the manner in which he would be elected and also demonstrated why that's probably the best outcome for everyone concerned.

Daniel W. Drezner is a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a regular columnist for The Washington Post blog PostEverything.

After election, we'll need a national timeout

By ANN McFEATHERS
Tribune News Service

Perhaps the worst thing the Republican presidential nominee has done to date is make it impossible for millions of us to talk civilly to each other. And that will take a long time to change.

I shudder to think of all the Thanksgiving dinners that will be ruined because Uncle Vince wants to talk about how great he thinks Donald Trump is and Cousin Betty wants to throw the soup tureen at him (both Vince and Donald, if he were there).

The vulgar anti-Clinton T-shirts seen at Trump rallies. The complete contempt the candidates have for each other. The media dialogue about sexual assault, racism and bigotry. The coarsening of our culture. The verbal and even physical violence of political foes toward each other.

It used to be your mom put you in a timeout for calling someone a liar. Now that word is thrown around so lightly and on such a flimsy basis, that hearing it hardly even shocks us.

Trump boasts of sexual assault on women, and his third wife, Melania, 24 years his junior, dismisses it as "boy talk." He was "egged on" to make such remarks, she said. And when a remarkably diverse array of women come forward to say they were victims of his unwelcome advances, Melania tells us to look askance at who

they are and their motivations. As if any right-minded woman would enjoy telling the world of having Trump's tongue thrust down her throat.

We are such a culturally divided nation now that Trump supporters and Clinton supporters have almost nothing in common, not even pride in their country. Trump supporters think the country is a mess. Clinton supporters think the problems have solutions that don't depend on one combed-over blowhard who refuses to discuss policy and whines that the system is rigged against him.

The most dangerous thing Trump is doing now is sowing doubts about the legitimacy of the American election system, as if 3,143 counties and county-equivalents such as parishes could be cudgeled into voter fraud. The most relevant statistic to come out in the wake of Trump's absurd and unfounded claim is that out of 1 billion ballots, 31 may have involved fraud.

Here's betting that after Trump loses the general election on Nov. 8, he and his scurrilous buddy Roger Ailes, who was forced out of his Fox News job after a series of sexual harassment complaints were made against him, will fork all Trump "news" network, getting Trump's base to pay monthly bills.

Trump will challenge Clinton as an illegitimate president, much as he did Barack Obama. He will continue spewing hate and venom toward immigrants and Muslims. He will do his best to work all efforts at reconciliation between Republicans and

Democrats in Washington. He will appeal to the basest of his base. He will make a lot of money (but not create many jobs) by being the worst citizen imaginable, fomenting his revolution against decency.

It would be different if Trump had specific proposals to debate and discuss in a civil manner. It would be different if Trump did not get down and dirty with personal smears of his opponents, causing his supporters not just to dislike them but hate and demean them. If it would be different if Trump could be gracious in defeat as were all his predecessors who lost.

But the brutish and self-indulgent, undisciplined tyrants, Trump will eventually get the treatment he deserves, even if it is only in the history books, where he will be reviled as one of the worst people ever to run for the White House.

But most troublesome is what will happen to our national psyche, at least in the short term. What about the friendships that have been severed, the brothers and sisters who no longer speak to each other, the communities where beneficial projects languish, all because of the vitriol Trump has spawned? What have we done to our children?

After this election, we need a national timeout, a cooling-off period, a chance to recoup and think about what we all love about this nation. No more nasty words. No more Trump titillation. Boring sounds OK about now.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Trump shuns democratic ideal

The Washington Post

Donald Trump showed a bit more self-control in the third and final presidential debate Wednesday night than he had in the previous two. His back and forth with Hillary Clinton was more substantive, thanks in part to firm guidance from moderator Chris Wallace. But all of that was overshadowed by Trump's breathtaking refusal to say that he will accept the results of the election.

"I will look at it at the time," he said. "The media is so dishonest and so corrupt ... they poison the minds of the voters ... She should never have been allowed to run for the presidency."

Clinton rightly called his stance a "horrible" repudiation of U.S. democracy ... Next to that, policy issues seem small. Yet the policy discussion was clarifying also, exposing as it did Trump's ignorance of—or is it distaste for?—facts and policy. He again insisted that the North American Free Trade Agreement has sucked jobs from the country, when economists have found otherwise. He indicated the debt would take care of itself under his economic plan because "we will have created a tremendous economic machine," which is pure snake oil. ...

In another striking moment, Trump denied that the Russian government has been meddling in this election, refusing to accept the judgment of the country's intelligence community. Clinton said "the most important question" was whether Trump would acknowledge Moscow's interference. Trump at first declined to do so, saying he doubted the reports by U.S. intelligence agencies. He avoided any criticism of Russia's Vladimir Putin, repeatedly insisting it would be "good" to get along with Russia, with no mention of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other actions that have made getting along difficult.

As if to prove Clinton's point that Trump would withdraw U.S. leadership from the world — to Putin's delight — the Republican nominee doubled down on his insistence that NATO allies and other allies "have to pay up," and he absurdly took credit for forcing reforms on the decades-old alliance. Clinton, by contrast, insisted that the United States benefits from engagement in the world, which used to be a consensus view on presidential debate stages.

Clinton managed to dodge some questions, including on communications that took place between the Clinton Foundation and the State Department under her leadership. She rightly said that she would not worsen the national debt as Trump would, but she could not refute Wallace's point that she has no plan to reduce it. She had no clear answer on how she could impose a no-fly zone over Syrian airspace now controlled by Russia.

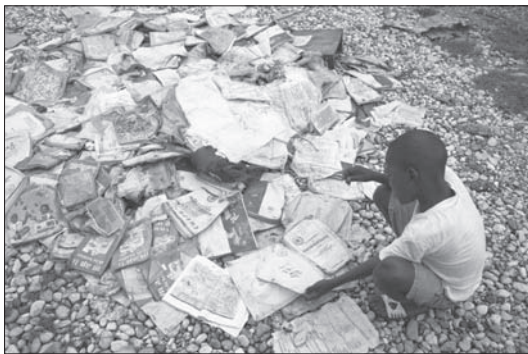
These are gaps that would have been probed and tested in a normal campaign. They fade to the status of trivia in the face of an opponent who will not accept the basic rules of American democracy.

Canada sends love south

The Arizona Republic

Canadians delivered a love note to Americans via social media, and it was basically the international equivalent of taking a casserole to a neighbor in need.

Clearly our friends to the north can tell this election season is making a lot of us queasy.



DEU NALIO CHERNY/AP

Rosmond Eliscar, 10, looks at a school math book, scattered among others salvaged after Hurricane Matthew hit on Oct. 4, in Mersan, Haiti, on Sunday.

The #TellAmericaIsGreat campaign includes a video in which several dozen Canadians tell us what's right about our country.

"We know you've got some really big decisions to make," says one. But "as you think about your future, we want you to know we really think you're great." ... "Sometimes friends just need to ... look out for each other," said Shari Walczak, a founder of The Garden collective, an image marketing agency behind the effort. In a blog post called "A Friend in Need," the agency spelled it out:

"It's not secret that America is going through a hard time right now. The election has exposed some pretty scary realities that will likely challenge them for years to come, regardless of who's elected. They've been bombarded with a tremendous amount of negativity and it's likely that for many of them, the immediate future seems rather bleak. America could probably use a little cheering up."

At a time we're churning out so much rich material for comics and other peddlers of satire and one-liners, these Canadians decided a little kindness might be more helpful.

How right they are. ... These pro-America messages are a necessary reminder that America is better than its politicians. And that we will get through this — with a little help from our friends.

Complexities meet in Mosul

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The long-awaited assault on Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, has started, including the participation of U.S. forces. What Americans have not yet been told is why American lives have been put at risk and other assets committed to this difficult, largely symbolic effort. U.S. military leaders have said it could take six months to complete. There isn't any guarantee that the attack will be successful.

The motley army that is attacking Islamic State forces in Mosul, which they have held since June 2014, includes, in addition to the some 5,000 U.S. forces, coalition government forces, Shiite Muslim militias, some led by and affiliated with Iran, and Iraqi Kurdish forces.

The religious piece of the puzzle is especially complex. Mosul's population contains elements of a number of different Middle Eastern religions but is predominantly Sunni Muslim, as is the Islamic State group. The forces that seek to liberate Mosul from Islamic State control are acting on behalf of the Baghdad government, which is largely Shiite Muslim. Sunnis in Mosul will resist the attackers on this basis, concerned at what will happen to them if Shiite government and informal

forces take over, even if they are not supporters of the Islamic State group.

The urban warfare that may occur is hard combat, as U.S. forces found when they were trying to take Iraqi cities during the occupation. If the attacking forces surround Mosul and shell it, the humanitarian disaster taking place in Aleppo, Syria, could be replicated in Mosul.

The Obama administration justifies U.S. participation in the battle as a manifestation of support for the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and an expression of confidence in the policy of training and equipping Iraq's armed forces to defend their own country against the Islamic State group and other potential opponents. ... If the Islamic State group responds to the assault on Mosul by simply exiting the city into the Iraqi and Syrian hinterland, to live and fight another day, their "defeat" won't mean much. If, of course, the coalition of Iraqi government, Shiite militias backed by Iranians, and the Americans were to be repelled, or become bogged down by Islamic State resistance in Mosul, the lesson will be the opposite, making this campaign a high roll of the dice.

Haiti's needs often forgotten

The Philadelphia Inquirer

With so much happening in our country, including a pivotal presidential election and the daunting recovery from Hurricane Matthew, maybe it's understandable that the storm's impact on Haiti has been an afterthought for many Americans. But the death and destruction in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation shouldn't be ignored.

The United States and Haiti were the first nations in the hemisphere to break free from colonial rule. Americans fighting under George Washington declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. Haitians led by Toussaint Louverture won their independence from France in 1804. But the Haitian rebellion was, in fact, a slave revolt, which made America's slave-holding states uncomfortable and European nations dismissive.

Marines occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 to protect U.S. financial interests. Ties with Haiti continued during the dictatorships of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, who ruled from 1957 to 1971, and Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who fled into exile in 1986. Haiti subsequently endured further misery under a number of corrupt, ineffective leaders.

A 2010 earthquake that left more than 200,000 dead and sprouted an ongoing cholera epidemic brought the country to its knees, struggling to recover from the earthquake, Haiti became Matthew's

punching bag on Oct. 4. ...

Massive financial aid is needed, but the United States can also provide relief in other ways. It can extend to more recent arrivals the Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, it provided to undocumented Haitians after the 2010 earthquake. It would be difficult for the immigrants to return to Haiti in its storm-devastated condition. Giving them TPS would allow them to stay here, get work permits and send money to their families in Haiti.

The United States can also expand its Haitian Family Reunification Parole, or HFRP, program, which allows eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of Haitian descent to apply for parole status for family members so they can then apply for work permits and permanent resident status here.

Inviting more immigrants to the U.S. isn't popular, especially in this election season. But Haiti hasn't been treated fairly. The Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti says fewer than 2,000 Haitians have come to the United States since the HFRP program began in 2014. Compare that with the 100,000 immigrants who have come here through the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program. ...

Natural disasters occurring amid every-day calamities in Haiti is a bitter struggle. But only when Haitians are dying by the hundreds does the rest of the world pay attention. The world's attention span never lasts as long as it should with Haiti.

Med students not maniacal

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Washington University medical school is weaning itself off the use of cats in medical training after concluding that technological advances in simulators and mannequins reduced the need to use live animals. The transition is a responsible one we can support.

The school resisted years of pressure from animals rights groups to use alternative teaching methods and was the last in the country to use animals to train new doctors how to insert breathing tubes. The reason for not changing the training was medically defensible, and patients should appreciate that the university did not cave in to bullying tactics by animal protectionists.

Dr. Bo Kennedy, a pediatric emergency specialist with St. Louis Children's Hospital, said that the anatomy of a cat's windpipe most closely mimicked that of a newborn infant. Using cats provided the best training ground for medical students.

Any parent who has anxiously waited while a doctor safely inserted a life-saving breathing tube into a newborn's delicate airway understands the importance of that training.

Hostile campaigns by animal rights groups have tried shaming doctors into using less-effective, alternative training methods. The right time to start such a transition is when technological advances provide a better way to train medical procedures as precisely as possible using mannequins instead of animals. ...

Most nonhuman scientific and medical research uses less complex animals, such as rats and mice, which tend not to generate the same levels of protest as procedures involving animals that humans empathize with.

Safeguards and oversight that ensure animals receive humane treatment in laboratory settings help ease the moral dilemma. Washington University said cats in its training lab will be adopted by medical school employees and that no cats have been put to death in its training program.

As public awareness increases, and technological developments lead to more lifelike mannequins and simulation devices, the use of live animals almost certainly will decrease. Federal ethical guidelines for the use of humans in research were developed in 1979. Similar guidelines on animals are long overdue.



VIETNAM

AT

50



Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rested Aggies ready for Bama

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Myles Garrett isn't about to tip his hand. Not with top-ranked Alabama next on the schedule.

The sixth-ranked Aggies' star defensive end said he felt much better Tuesday following Texas A&M's week off after admitting to being only 65-70 percent healthy against Tennessee. Garrett is dealing with an unspecified leg injury.

He broke into a huge smile when asked for an update. "Well I can't let them know," he said. "I'm good enough to play well."

The Aggies (6-0) will need him and the rest of their star players to be at full strength as they put their undefeated record on the line on Saturday against the Crimson Tide (7-0), the Southeastern Conference's other unbeaten team.

Garrett and fellow defensive end Daeshon Hall have formed a dangerous combination this year with nine tackles for losses each, helping the Aggies rank third in the nation with 9.7 a game.

While Alabama was dismantling Tennessee 49-10 last week, the Aggies had time to recharge before traveling to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, this week.

"It was a good situation for us ...



No. 6 Texas A&M (6-0)
at No. 1 Alabama (7-0)
AFN-Sports2
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

I thought our guys were at a point where they needed it," coach Kevin Sumlin said. "It came at the right time after getting through the two weeks prior."

The Aggies got a 24-13 win at South Carolina on Oct. 1 despite playing without Garrett and three other starters. The next week, Garrett played almost exclusively on third downs when they held off a late charge by Tennessee to get a 45-38 victory in double overtime.

Texas A&M also used its break to evaluate what it's done so far and how the team can build on that success in the second half of the season.

"You spend about a day looking back and do a midseason report on where we're at, the receivers did it," receiver Christian Kirk said. "Just where we're at and what we can work on to go



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Texas A&M wide receiver Christian Kirk, left, and the sixth-ranked Aggies put their undefeated record on the line on Saturday against Alabama (7-0), the Southeastern Conference's other unbeaten team. Kirk leads the team with 40 receptions and has 352 yards.

through this last stretch and win every game. So it was good to look back and see what we need to improve on."

Kirk leads the team with 40 receptions and his 352 yards receiving rank second for the Aggies. Kirk and Josh Reynolds, who is first on the team with 488 yards receiving, have been Trevor Knight's favorite targets with senior Ricky Seals-Jones out the last two games with an injury.

Knight has been solid in his first season at Texas A&M after joining the team as a graduate transfer from Oklahoma. He has

thrown for 1,500 yards with nine touchdowns and five interceptions. He's also proven to be a threat on the ground, rushing for 502 yards with nine more scores.

It's been a nice bounce-back season for Knight, who was benched last year in favor of Baker Mayfield before leaving Oklahoma. He also spent some time last week reflecting on his first six games with the Aggies and came away with an encouraging conclusion.

"I still don't think we've played our best football on the offensive side of the ball," he said.

The defense is also looking for ways to get better after giving up some big leads before coming back to win in overtime in a couple of games this season. Despite those lapses, defensive coordinator John Chavis has been impressed with much of the work his unit has done so far.

"When you're in situations to finish a game, we've got to be able to do that," he said. "We have not done that as well as I expect and our players expect. But our players are giving great ... effort and that's a good starting place."

No. 21 Auburn aiming to avoid repeat against Arkansas

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — The Auburn Tigers are again 4-2 and showing signs of a turnaround going into the Arkansas game.

The No. 21 Tigers are trying to avoid a repeat of last season's deflating outcome Saturday against the No. 17 Razorbacks. They lost that game 51-46 in four overtimes to start a 1-4 finishing swoon in Southeastern Conference games.

Auburn (4-2, 1-1) rides a three-game winning streak into the rematch, including SEC West victories over LSU and Mississippi State.

The defense has been consistently solid and the once-struggling offense has come to life in beating Louisiana-Monroe and the Bulldogs by a combined 96-21. The Tigers entered the Top 25 before last week's open date, but recent history proves it's way too early to proclaim this a successful season.

"The good thing about this team is our leadership is very strong," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. "The leadership will definitely keep everybody grounded. They're on a mission. They really helped us through the tough times. There were no chinks in our armor, and it really starts with our leaders. They've got a good pulse for our team. Our younger guys really listen to them."

And the offense, especially, is full of younger guys. Underclassmen have accounted for 88 percent of the Tigers' offensive yards during the first half of the



BUTCH DILL/AP

Auburn head coach Gus Malzahn reacts to a targeting call during the first half against LSU, in Auburn, Ala., last month. The 21st-ranked Auburn Tigers have definitely shown signs of improvement in recent weeks, but Saturday's game with No. 17 Arkansas will give a better gauge of where they stand.

season, led by a trio of sophomores — quarterback Sean White and tailbacks Kamryn Pettway and Kerryn Johnson.

They've helped lead a turnaround since a 1-2 start that included competitive losses to No. 4 Clemson and No. 6 Texas A&M.

Malzahn has since handed over play calling duties to offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee, with positive results so far. He said the Tigers have improved "quite a

bit" since the Texas A&M loss.

The defense has gone three straight games without allowing a rushing touchdown for the first time since 2008. White has completed 77 percent of his passes over the past three games, stabilizing the offense and his own status as the No. 1 quarterback. Malzahn played three quarterbacks early in the season opener against Clemson.



No. 17 Arkansas (5-2)
at No. 21 Auburn (4-2)
AFN-Sports2

Joined in progress, 1 a.m. Sunday CET
8 a.m. Sunday JKT

But now come two bigger tests — the Razorbacks (5-2, 1-2) and at No. 23 Mississippi. Auburn could emerge as an SEC West contender or a team scrambling to secure a winning record like last year.

White sustained a knee injury against Arkansas but led a last-minute drive toward a tying field goal in the fourth quarter to force overtime. Not pulling that game out "still makes me mad," Malzahn said.

It's one of several close games Malzahn and Auburn players could point to during the offseason as a key to reversing the Tigers' fortunes.

"That was kind of one of our messages during the summer is finish games like that," guard Alex Kozan said. "Find a way to put ourselves over the edge and win those games."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pleasant surprises and some flops so far

The best and worst at midseason

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

The first half of the 2016 college football season featured the emergence of a new star quarterback, the re-emergence of an old Pac-12 power and the end of an era at LSU.

Texas is back! Nope.

Houston to the playoff! Nah.

Tom Herman to LSU? Tom Herman to Texas? Tom Herman to the Chicago Bears? This, unfortunately, has only just begun.

With seven weeks of the season in the books, we assess the best and the worst of the first half.

Most surprising undefeated team

No. 6 Texas A&M: The Aggies were unranked and appeared to be an unsettled program to start the season. Assistant coaches made offseason headlines for the wrong reasons. The five-star quarterbacks had fled and were replaced by former inconsistent Oklahoma quarterback Trevor Knight. There is no more hot-seat talk about coach Kevin Sumlin as the Aggies head to No. 1 Alabama for a game that could decide the SEC West on Saturday. There is still potential for things to go sideways for Sumlin and the Aggies, but so far A&M has replaced the swag with substance.

Most disappointing team

Notre Dame: There are some serious candidates here. Oregon, but the Ducks were showing signs for crashing coming into 2016.

Michigan State, but the Spartans were probably due for a reset season. Notre Dame, however, is a big hot mess. Seven games in and coach Brian Kelly has fired his defensive coordinator and created an unnecessary quarterback controversy. Even allowing the Fighting Irish some leeway for over inflated expectations, 2-5 and scrambling to get bowl eligible is unacceptable.

Best coaching job-head coach

Nick Saban, Alabama, and Urban Meyer, Ohio State: We often reward the coaches who exceed expectations and do the most with the least. That's all well and good, but sustained excellence is really where it's at. No. 1 Alabama won the national championship last year and is better this season with a freshman quarterback. No. 2 Ohio State lost one of the great NFL draft classes from one school of all time and the Buckeyes have not missed a beat.

Best coaching job-coordinator

Justin Wilcox, defensive coordinator, Wisconsin: Could go back to Alabama for Lane Kiffin or Ohio State for Greg Schiano, but Wilcox is the pick as he re-establishes himself as one of the better defensive coordinators in the country. He took over a well-stocked group after Dave Aranda left for LSU, but the 10th-ranked Badgers are as feisty as ever.

Best turnaround

Colorado: It has been a long hard road back to relevance for



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Trevor Knight rushes for a touchdown past Tennessee defensive back Michael Abernathy during a game in College Station, Texas. The sixth-ranked Aggies were unranked to start the season and their transformation from unsettled team to highly ranked is a surprise of the season.

the Buffaloes, but Mike McIntyre has Boulder interested in its college football team again. CU has not won more than six games since 2004 and had just two Pac-12 victories in McIntyre's first three seasons. Now the Buffs (5-2) are a win away from bowl eligibility and 3-1 in conference with a legit chance to take the Pac-12 South. Props also to defensive coordinator and former USF coach Jim Leavitt for the most improved part of the team.

Breakout player-offense (not named Lamar Jackson)

Dede Westbrook, WR, Oklahoma: Lots of good candidates here among receivers, most notably Cal's Chad Hansen and Syracuse's Amba Etta-Tawo. Westbrook was the Big 12's offensive newcomer of the year last year so it's not as if he is coming out of nowhere. His recent surge (26 catches for 574 yards), though, has him playing like an All-American and he has already surpassed last year's numbers for receptions and yards.

Breakout player-defense

Joe Mathis, LB, Washington: Mathis has gone from solid player to an absolute force for the fifth-ranked Huskies in his senior season. He has already topped his career total for sacks with five and nearly doubled his career tackles for loss with 7.5 this season. Oregon coaches could still be searching game tape for play in which the Ducks handled Mathis.

Best game

Clemson 42, Louisville 36: Two great quarterbacks doing spectacular things. Talented players everywhere. Huge swings in emotion and momentum. Comebacks on both sides and clutch performances. All played in one of the best venues in college football. And it came down to 1 yard. Sure it was sloppy at times, but so much fun.

Worst game

Michigan 78, Rutgers 0: Maybe the most noncompetitive conference game in the last 25 years of college football.

Worst officiating

The officials who worked the Central Michigan-Oklahoma State: It is one thing to blow a judgment call. It is quite another to badly misinterpret a rule and that have that mistake cost a team a game. Both the MAC officials on the field and Big 12 replay officials earned suspensions.

Worst firing

Les Miles, LSU: LSU athletic director Joe Alleva wanted Miles out last season, but botched it and allowed Miles to gain a groundswell of support. So at first chance this season, after an ugly loss at Auburn dropped the Tigers to 2-2, Alleva named Miles before the coach could go out and save himself again. It was time for a change in Baton Rouge. And if handled properly it could have been done 10 months earlier.

Hot-seat coaches

Cooling contracts: Mark Stoops, Kentucky. Has a \$12 million buy-out. With assistants, firing him could cost more than \$17 million.

Steve Addazio, Boston College: Received an extension in 2014 that runs through 2020.

Warm: Paul Johnson, Georgia Tech; Mark Helfrich, Oregon; Gus Malzahn, Auburn

Warmer: Charlie Strong, Texas

Toasty: David Bailiff, Rice

Cooked: Tim DeRuyter, Fresno State

Hot coaches from Group of Five (not named Tom Herman)

Jeff Brohm, Western Kentucky
P.J. Fleck, Western Michigan
Scott Satterfield, Appalachian State

Willie Taggart, USF

Halfway Heisman

1. Lamar Jackson, QB, Louisville

2. Jake Browning, QB, Washington

3. Greg Ward Jr., QB, Houston

4. Dalvin Cook, RB, Florida State; J.T. Barrett, QB, Ohio State; Jalen Hurts, QB, Alabama

Top four now (doesn't matter)

1. Alabama

2. Ohio State

3. Michigan

4. Clemson

Top four on Dec. 4 (matters)

1. Alabama

2. Ohio State

3. Clemson

4. Washington



SUE OGOROCK/AP

Oklahoma wide receiver Dede Westbrook was the Big 12 offensive newcomer of the year last year, and he has followed that up by already surpassing his 2015 numbers and playing like an All-American.

"We've got plenty of still frames that prove I was safe," Gonzalez said. "Usually they say the play stands, but they said there wasn't enough evidence, which means they know I was safe."

The Dodgers challenged Angel Hernandez's decision, and the video review let the call stand.

MLB PLAYOFFS



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

From left, Cleveland catcher Roberto Perez, relief pitcher Cody Allen, and teammates Andrew Miller and Coco Crisp celebrate the Indians' 3-1 victory over the Blue Jays in Game 5 of the American League Championship Series in Toronto on Wednesday. The Indians won the series 4-1.

Tribe: Merritt, bullpen secure series

FROM BACK PAGE

scintillating year in Cleveland after LeBron James and the Cavaliers earned the city's first major pro sports championship since 1964.

The Indians' title drought dates to 1948. In 1997, they let a one-run lead go in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7 and lost to the Florida Marlins in the 11th.

"We always said if we could do it with this group it would be so special because this is as close to a family feel as you can get in a professional setting. So for that part of it, it is beyond feeling good," Francona said.

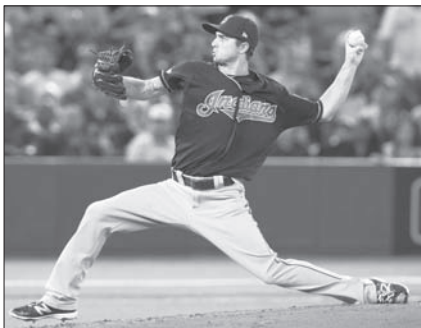
Miller, acquired from the New York Yankees in a midseason trade, was selected the ALCS MVP as the Indians took their sixth pennant.

"I feel like I've said the word 'special' a million times in the last 20 or 30 minutes. But it's the truth. It's a blast to be a part of," Miller said.

With all of 11 major league innings under his belt — and only one start, on Sept. 30 — Merritt took the mound and looked just like a seasoned vet. The lefty retired the first 10 batters and allowed a mere two hits before being pulled after 4½ innings.

"I know they were counting on me," Merritt said. "Before the game, they came and told me they had my back, everybody had my back, good or bad. So that takes some pressure off, and I just went out there and pitched and trusted my team."

Merritt got taps on his heart and hat from teammates when he left the mound. Then it was up to Cleveland's tireless relievers to hold a three-run lead against the wild-card Blue Jays.



MARK BLINCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ryan Merritt was just the second pitcher to start a postseason game with only one previous regular-season start. The 24-year-old lefty retired the first 10 batters and allowed just two hits before being pulled after 4½ innings.

Miller again did most of the heavy lifting, going 2½ innings before Cody Allen worked the ninth for a save. Winning pitcher Bryan Shaw tossed an inning before Miller came in.

Carlos Santana and Coco Crisp homered for the Indians. With starting pitchers Carlos Carrasco, Danny Salazar and Trevor Bauer dealing with injuries, the Indians kept defying the odds.

Cleveland overtook defending World Series champion Kansas City and topped a \$196 million Detroit team to win the AL Central, then put an abrupt end to Big Papi's career, sweeping David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox in the Division Series.

The Indians stayed on a roll in the ALCS, shutting down the banging Blue Jays. Cleveland won despite hitting .168 in the series, with slick-fielding shortstop Francisco Lindor leading the way in going 7-for-19.

Toronto lost in the ALCS for the second straight year.

"I'm sure there will be some disappointments and grumbling and complaining about how you fell short again, but that's not coming from me," manager John Gibbons said. "Because I know what these guys did, and I think it's a pretty good accomplishment. The key is we want to take that next step one of these days. Hopefully, it's next year."

Miller's moment

Cleveland reliever named MVP of ALCS

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

TORONTO — MVP: Most Versatile Pitcher.

The humble workhorse in a wipout bullpen, Andrew Miller was selected AL Championship Series MVP after his latest spotless outing sent the Cleveland Indians to their first pennant since 1997.

Miller tossed 2½ innings in a 3-0 victory Wednesday over Toronto, capping a five-game series in which the lanky left-hander overpowered the dangerous Blue Jays.

He had one strikeout in Game 5 and finished the series with 14 — an ALCS record for a reliever. Miller gave up three hits in 7½ shutout innings against Toronto and earned a four-out save in Game 3.

"At this point of the year, you just find a way. That's all that matters. It's about winning," Miller said. "I would have given up 100 runs if we won 101-100. That's all that matters is we're going to the World Series, and that's a special experience and I can't wait."

After capturing their sixth pennant, thanks in large part to Miller, the Indians are four wins from their first championship since 1948.

Miller was acquired from the New York Yankees for a package of prospects in a July 31 trade, and Cleveland had an interesting idea of how to feature him. Rather than restricting him to a closer role or using him only in the eighth inning, the Indians have been flexible with Miller — especially in the postseason.

"It's so fun to be a part of this team," he said. "I really enjoyed my time with the Yankees. It's tough when you leave a comfort zone and a place that you like and people that you like. But I knew I was coming to a team that had won a lot and had expectations to



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Cleveland relief pitcher Andrew Miller accepts the ALCS MVP trophy after the Indians defeated the Blue Jays 3-0 in Game 5 on Wednesday in Toronto.

win more."

Now, whenever the Indians have a lead in the middle innings, the 6-foot-7 lefty begins looming large in the bullpen — and Miller time is near.

With that nasty slider and a sizzling fastball he spots to both sides of the plate, he struck out 21 of 41 batters during the AL playoffs. He has allowed a mere six hits over 20 scoreless innings in his postseason career.

There are plenty of other important contributors in the Cleveland bullpen, particularly closer Cody Allen, who had 32 saves during the regular season and hasn't allowed a run in the postseason.

In fact, Indians relievers racked up 22 innings in the ALCS — the same amount as their starters.

But it's Miller who strikes the most fear in opposing hitters after he whiffed a whopping 14.9 per nine innings this season while going 10-1 with a 1.45 ERA and 12 saves.

A promotional graphic for the NFL Challenge. It features a dark background with a bright light source at the top, creating a lens flare effect. The text "Play to win a weekly prize. Play for the Grand Prize. Play for bragging rights. Play for fun. Just play." is displayed in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, the "STARS AND STRIPES" logo is shown, followed by the "NFL CHALLENGE" logo in large, bold letters. At the bottom, it says "Play today at Stripes.com/nfl".

NHL/NFL/NBA

Roundup

Howard's play lifts Wings past Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jimmy Howard's coach couldn't stop howling about the goaltender's performance.

"Jimmy stole the game," Detroit coach Jeff Blashill said of Howard, whose 32-save effort led the Red Wings to a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night. "Jimmy had one of the best performances I've seen out of any goalie at any level."

After beginning the season with two straight losses, the Red Wings have won consecutive games.

Thomas Vanek and Drew Miller scored for Detroit, which improved to 2-2-0, and it was Howard to thank for their latest win as New York had the better of play with wide stretches. The Rangers outshot Detroit 33-18 and Howard was forced to manage highlight reel stops to keep the Red Wings in the game.

"We can't play like this if we want to win," Detroit's Henrik Zetterberg said. "We found a way to win."

Even after spotting the Rangers a quick lead.

New York led 1-0 as Mika Zibanejad redirected Ryan McDonagh's slap shot from the right point past Howard 1:09 into the game. The Rangers outshot the Red Wings 14-7 in the period.

"We were terrible in the first," Zetterberg said.

Zibanejad's goal accounted for all of New York's offense, and the Rangers have alternated wins and losses through their first four games.

Their lead could have been larger as Jimmy Vesey and Brady Skjei had shots that hit goal posts late in the first, and Michael Grabner, Rick Nash and Mats Zuccarello all missed on quality scoring chances in the first three minutes of the second period.

"We hit a hot goaltender," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "We had five or six break-aways we were unable to finish. Give him credit."

5. Maple Leafs 4 (OT): Rookie Patrik Laine overcame a hat trick 2:40 into overtime, helping host Winnipeg overcome a four-goal deficit to beat Toronto.

The confident Finn got the better of his first head-to-head matchup against fellow rookie Anton Matthews, tying the game with 55 seconds left in the third before winning it in overtime. Laine went second overall in the 2016 draft behind Matthews, despite Laine's insistence he should have gone first.

Laine scored in overtime right after Matthews was stopped by goalie Michael Hutchinson at the other end.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
Tampa Bay	3	3	0	0	6	13	9		3-0-0
Ottawa	4	3	1	0	6	17	16		3-1-0
Montreal	4	2	2	0	4	11	15		2-2-0
Florida	3	2	0	1	5	6	6		2-1-0
Boston	3	2	1	0	4	11	8		2-1-0
Toronto	4	2	2	0	4	12	11		2-2-0
Detroit	4	2	2	0	4	12	12		2-2-0
Buffalo	4	2	2	0	4	12	12		2-2-0
Metropolitan Division									
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	1	5	7	7		2-1-0
Washington	4	2	1	1	5	9	12		2-1-1
N.Y. Rangers	4	2	2	0	4	15	12		2-2-0
New Jersey	3	2	1	0	4	12	9		2-1-0
Philadelphia	3	1	1	1	3	11	13		1-2-1
Carolina	3	1	2	0	2	9	12		1-2-1
N.I. Islanders	4	1	3	0	2	9	12		1-3-0
Columbus	2	0	2	0	0	5	9		0-2-0

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	Streak	Record
St. Louis	3	3	0	0	6	17	8		3-0-0
Colorado	3	2	1	0	4	10	11		2-1-0
Minnesota	3	2	1	0	4	12	9		2-1-0
Dallas	3	2	1	0	4	11	9		2-1-0
Chicago	4	2	2	0	4	16	15		2-2-0
Winnipeg	4	2	2	0	4	14	16		2-2-0
Nashville	3	2	1	0	4	12	9		2-1-0
Pacific Division									
Vancouver	3	3	0	0	6	8	5		3-0-0
Edmonton	4	3	1	0	6	12	12		3-1-0
San Jose	4	3	1	0	6	17	12		3-1-0
Calgary	4	1	2	1	3	12	17		1-2-1
Arizona	2	1	1	0	2	8	10		1-1-0
Anheim	4	0	3	1	1	7	12		0-3-1
Los Angeles	2	0	3	0	0	5	10		0-3-0

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Tuesday's games

San Jose 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
Washington 3, Colorado 0
New Jersey 2, Anaheim 1
Ottawa 7, Arizona 4
Montreal 4, Pittsburgh 0
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 3, SO
Pittsburgh 6, Los Angeles 3
Dallas 2, Nashville 1
Vancouver 4, Buffalo 3, OT
Edmonton 3, Carolina 2
Vancouver 2, St. Louis 1, OT

Wednesday's games

Winnipeg 5, Toronto 2
Detroit 2, N.Y. Rangers 1
San Jose 3, Pittsburgh 2
Anaheim at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Boston
Washington at Florida
Arizona at Montreal
Colorado at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Dallas
St. Louis at Edmonton
Carolina at Calgary
Buffalo at Vancouver
Friday's games
Chicago at Columbus
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders
Nashville at Detroit
Saturday's games
San Jose at Detroit
N.Y. Rangers at Washington
Minnesota at New Jersey
Toronto at Ottawa
Colorado at Florida
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Montreal at Boston
Carolina at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Nashville
Columbus at Dallas
St. Louis at Calgary
Vancouver at Los Angeles

Wednesday

Red Wings 2, Rangers 1
Detroit 1-1-0
N.Y. Rangers 1-1-0
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Zibanejad 1 (McDonagh, Kessel), 1:09.
Second Period—2, Detroit, Vanek 3 (Nash, Grabner), 1:47 (pp.).
Third Period—3, Detroit, Miller 1 (Glenendyne), 6:55.
Shots on Goal—Detroit 14-13-48. N.Y. Rangers 14-13-63.
Goals—Detroit, Howard 1-0-0 (33 shots), 1:00. N.Y. Rangers, Laine 1-0-0 (18-16).
A=18,200 (18,200). T=2:28.

Weds

Jets 5, Maple Leafs 4 (OT)
Toronto 2-2-0-4
Winnipeg 1-1-1-3
First Period—1, Toronto, Carrick 1 (Marner, Van Riemsdyk), 6:46. 2, Toronto, Kessel 1 (McDonagh, Kessel), 11:09.
Second Period—2, Toronto, Nylander 1 (Zetterberg), 1:47 (pp.).
Third Period—3, Toronto, Nylander 2 (Kadri, Nylander, Schaeffer), 6:55 (pp.).
Shots on Goal—Toronto 8-15-14-40. Winnipeg 10-11-12-34.
Goals—Toronto, Andersen 1-0-2 (34 shots), 1:00. Winnipeg, Hutchinson 1-1-0 (40-36).
A=15,294 (15,015). T=2:36.

Weds

Red Wings 2, Rangers 1
Detroit 1-1-0
N.Y. Rangers 1-1-0
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Zibanejad 1 (McDonagh, Kessel), 1:09.
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Jets turn to Smith at QB

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Fitz Magic fizzled, so it's Geno Smith's turn again.

The New York Jets will start Smith at quarterback Sunday against Baltimore at MetLife Stadium, sending Ryan Fitzpatrick and his one-year, \$12 million contract to the sideline.

"I felt like it was time for a change," coach Todd Bowles said after practice Wednesday.

At the NFL fall meetings in Houston, Jets owner Woody Johnson said it was Bowles' call to go with Smith, with the Jets sinking at 1-5 and on a four-game losing streak. Bowles confirmed that it was "strictly my call."

"I am behind the coach 100 percent," Johnson said. "Our coach made the decision he felt needed to be made."

Fitzpatrick has been a major reason for the Jets' struggles, throwing an NFL-leading 11 interceptions and just five touchdown passes during a brutal start.

"I mean, I don't like it," Fitzpatrick said. "I'm disappointed that we're making the change, but disappointed in my play this year, as well."

"The competitor in me really wants to be out there. The guy who was the leader of this team last year and the beginning of this year wants to be out there, but it's a decision that Todd made. I've got to respect his decision, but I don't have to like it."

After the Jets lost 28-3 at Arizona on Monday night, Bowles said Fitzpatrick would remain the starter. He backtracked a bit Tuesday during a conference call, saying it's always "status quo" right after games and he wanted to discuss things with his staff and general manager Mike Maccagnan that night. During those meetings, Bowles decided to go with Smith.

"Geno's our starter right now," Bowles said. "We'll see how things go down the line."

Bowles added that it's possible the Jets could turn to Fitzpatrick again at some point.

"I can only go week to week," the coach said.

Smith was the Jets' starter last summer until his jaw was broken by a punch from then-teammate Ikemefuna Ekenmepali during training camp.

"I think the person who benefited the most from this last year and a half has been Geno," wide receiver Brandon Marshall said. "It's been amazing



SETH WENIG/AP

New York Jets quarterbacks Geno Smith, right, and Ryan Fitzpatrick participate in practice in Florham Park, N.J., on Wednesday. Smith will replace Fitzpatrick as the starter this week.

to see this guy grow and really, you know, punch adversity in the face."

Fitzpatrick took over last summer and went on to throw a franchise-record 31 touchdown passes and get within a win of the playoffs at 10-6.

After garnering little interest in the free-agent market, Fitzpatrick re-signed with the Jets on the eve of training camp, a move most Jets players celebrated. Fitzpatrick has had a rough go of it this season, including a six-interception performance at Kansas City on Sept. 25.

New York's offensive woes were hard for Bowles to overlook. The Jets rank 26th overall and are last in the NFL in scoring with 15.8 points per game.

Their red zone offense is also worst in the league, scoring eight touchdowns in 22 trips inside the opponents' 20-yard line (36.4 percent).

Rose cleared in rape lawsuit

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — NBA star Derrick Rose and two friends were cleared Wednesday in a \$21.5 million lawsuit that accused them of gang raping his ex-girlfriend when she was incapacitated from drugs or alcohol.

Jurors in Los Angeles federal court reached the verdict in less than four hours after concluding there was a lack of evidence to support the woman's claims and dismissing her account as unbelievable.

"It felt like she was playing us," said a juror who would only give his first name as Jared. "The second her lawyer started questioning her, she would start crying. I mean, granted, that could be realistic, but I feel I'm pretty good at reading people, and I felt as if it was false."

Jared was among several jurors who spoke to reporters outside the courthouse, none of whom gave their full names.

Rose remained stoic as the verdict was read and later thanked jurors and posed for photos with

them in the lobby, draping his left arm around each one who wanted a souvenir of the Knicks' post guard as one of his lawyers snapped photos on their phones.

"I am thankful that the jury understood and agreed with me," Rose said in a statement. "This experience and my sensitivity to it was deep. I am ready to put this behind me and focus on my family and career."

The case was X-rated at times with testimony from the men about poolside group sex at a mansion Rose rented in Beverly Hills in the summer of 2013 and multiple sexual encounters throughout the night and into the next morning.

The woman denied having sex at Rose's place, saying she had a few tequila shots and felt drugged before going home. Her lawyer said the defense invented the story to make it look like she had willingly had sex with the men.

The incident in question happened hours later in the early morning of Aug. 27 when she said the three men came to her Los Angeles apartment and had sex

with her after she had passed out.

The issue for the jury was whether she consented to sex or was too intoxicated to do so. The men all said it was clear she was willing when she stopped the three outside her bedroom door and said, "One at a time."

Defense lawyers tarred her as a gold-digging liar who tried to sway jurors through emotions to get a piece of Rose's fortune. They claimed she was angry he had dumped her, so she set him up and brought the lawsuit in hopes of a big payoff.

"All three men were innocent from Day 1," Rose's attorney, Mark Baute, said after the verdict. "We're very happy that the system worked."

The woman's lawyer called the men "sexual deviants" who conspired to gang rape her after she was drunk and incapable of consenting to sex.

Attorney Waukeen McCoy said the woman was devastated and did not understand how jurors could reach their conclusion. She left the courthouse without commenting.

NFL



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Eagles head coach Doug Pederson talks with quarterback Carson Wentz during warmups before a game against the Detroit Lions. Wentz was able to learn from former starting quarterback Sam Bradford before Philadelphia traded him to Minnesota. The teams meet on Sunday.

Bradford helped Wentz in Philly before being dealt

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz owes some of his success to Sam Bradford.

Bradford certainly wasn't thrilled when the Eagles drafted Wentz with the No. 2 overall pick, but he served as a mentor to the rookie throughout the summer until he was traded to Minnesota on Sept. 3.

"When I first got here, it was good to have Sam and Chase (Daniel)," Wentz said Wednesday. "I talked to Sam quite a bit and really wanted to dive deeper into this offense. Sam had some good insight on our offense, and he was in a number of other systems as well. We had good conversations. I really built a good relationship with him and I look forward to playing against him."

Wentz leads the Eagles (3-2) against Bradford and the unbeaten Vikings (5-0) on Sunday in Philadelphia. While much of the focus centers on the quarterbacks, Wentz isn't getting caught up in the hype.

"The Vikings are the next game on the schedule. We're excited for it," Wentz said. "We have had two tough losses where we didn't execute the way we wanted to. We don't put pressure on ourselves, but at the same time, we play with a sense of urgency that we have to

be better. We know that, and we will."

Bradford, a former No. 1 overall pick by the Rams, set franchise records in his only season in Philadelphia with 346 completions and a 65 percent completion rate. His 3,725 yards passing in 14 games was the fourth-most in Eagles history. Bradford passed up free agency and signed a two-year, \$36 million contract with \$22 million guaranteed in March.

Then Philadelphia moved up to get the second pick and selected Wentz. Bradford figured his days with the Eagles were numbered. Still, he thought he'd get one more season.

"I was really excited about the year there," Bradford said. "I felt like I had a really good spring. I felt like I played well in the pre-season. I felt like things were really coming together on offense for us. I looked forward to playing this year there and continuing the chemistry we had built last year."

But the Vikings were desperate for a quarterback after losing Teddy Bridgewater to a serious knee injury and they moved quickly to acquire Bradford for a first-round draft pick and a conditional fourth-round.

It's turned out to be a win-win trade for both teams.

'Sam had some good insight on our offense, and he was in a number of other systems as well. We had good conversations.'

Carson Wentz

Eagles QB on former teammate Sam Bradford

Don't panic: QB Jones tells Steelers he's ready

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Landry Jones is a realist. Call it the by-product of spending the last three-plus years fighting for a job and fending off repeated attempts by the Pittsburgh Steelers to find somebody better to back up Ben Roethlisberger.

So in a team meeting Wednesday, with the franchise quarterback resting at home while recovering from left knee surgery and a visit from the New England Patriots awaiting on Sunday, Jones felt it was time to send a message, albeit more than a little tongue in cheek.

"Don't panic."

No, really.

"Any time THE Landry Jones graces us with his verbal leadership, we appreciate that," linebacker Arthur Moats said with a laugh.

"In all seriousness ... we understand the 'next man up' motto doesn't matter. Any position as you've seen this year, we've had those guys have success. It's no different with Landry."

Jones gets he's not Roethlisberger. Then again, few are. That hardly means he expects offensive coordinator Todd Haley to delete half the playbook or the Steelers (4-2) to cower at the sight of Tom Brady.

From the day the Steelers took him in the fourth round of the 2013 draft, Jones has believed he can be an NFL starting quarterback. That belief hasn't wavered. Now in the final year of his rookie contract, Jones is well aware there's possibly more at stake Sunday than one game in the standings. There's a very real chance to prove to 31 other teams he can be a difference maker.

"Yeah, but that's way on the backburner though," Jones said Wednesday. "Right now, I'm on this team. I'm ready to go. I want to play and I want to play well. And I want to win the game. All of that stuff will take care of itself."

Maybe, though it often doesn't for second-string quarterbacks when tasked with trying to beat a Hall of Famer. The Patriots have rarely lost to backups on Brady's watch. The list of newbies who have shaken Brady's hand in triumph over the past 16 years is short.

Really short.

Roethlisberger did it in 2004, though by Week 7 the rookie had already supplanted Tommy Maddox as the starter. Kevin Kolb did it in Week 2 in 2012 as Arizona pulled off an unlikely upset in Foxboro.

Brook Osweiler did it while subbing for Peyton Manning last November, a performance that helped swing home-field advantage to the Broncos in the playoffs and Osweiler land a \$72



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Steelers quarterbacks Ben Roethlisberger, right, and Landry Jones sit on the sidelines during Sunday's game against Miami. Jones will start this week as Roethlisberger recovers from knee surgery.

million contract from Houston in the offseason.

Otherwise, backup quarterbacks have met the same fate as everyone else caught trying to outsmart Bill Belichick or keep up with Brady.

"They're going to do what they do, but for each team there are little tweaks here and there," Jones said. "I'm sure they'll have something different for us."

Jones, however, hopes the Steelers don't do anything differently with him in the huddle instead of Roethlisberger.

The leading passer in Big 12 history during his record-setting career at Oklahoma was intermittently effective in 2015, leading a second-half rally at Arizona and a winning drive against Oakland with Roethlisberger unavailable.

Yet Jones also did little in a loss at Kansas City in the one game he started and finished. He looked overmatched when thrown into last January's wild-card game in Cincinnati while Roethlisberger was getting his sprained right shoulder worked on, throwing what appeared to be a season-ending pick before the Bengals went into a full meltdown.

The Steelers weren't exactly impressed, re-signing veteran Bruce Gradkowski to serve as Roethlisberger's understudy in the spring.

When Gradkowski went on injured reserve with a torn hamstring in August, Jones survived once again. He was OK if hardly spectacular during the preseason,

playing extensively while Roethlisberger rested.

Now Roethlisberger is out — again — and Jones finds himself with perhaps his last best chance to show he belongs. Make no mistake, he's going out there swinging. And there's proof Pittsburgh can survive without Roethlisberger's familiar No. 7. The Steelers are 11-9 when Roethlisberger hasn't started since 2004.

"Coach Tomlin said something along the lines of, 'gunfighters are going to get shot,'" Jones said. "For me, I have to go out there and cut it loose and play like that. [Rather] than trying to be too careful and try to just go out there and take every check down that I can."

Having one of the best running back/receiver tandems in the league in Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown should help. And Jones' teammates insist they've got his back.

Six other quarterbacks have come and gone since the spring of 2013, from the famous (Michael Vick) to the not-so-famous (Brendon Kay). Jones remains. Now he finds himself facing a "dude" he grew up watching.

The gap in inexperience and expectation on Sunday is nearly incalculable. That doesn't mean it's impossible to bridge, at least not to Jones.

"You have to play smart," Jones said. "But, you have to take what the defense gives you and try to be cautiously aggressive."

Optimistic, too.

SPORTS

**Geno subbed**Fitzpatrick benched, Smith to start vs. Ravens » **NFL, Page 30****ALCS: GAME 5**

Tribe tops Toronto

Cleveland headed to World Series for 1st time since 1997

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

For the Cleveland Indians, the script was the same every game — hope for the best from whoever they started, then count on Andrew Miller and the bullpen to close it out.

That plan seemed especially dicey in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series, with lightly used Ryan Merritt on the mound.

But out of nowhere, the rookie delivered.

Merritt coolly kept the Indians ahead until reinforcements arrived, and Cleveland earned its first trip to the World Series since 1997 by blanking the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 Wednesday.

The 24-year-old lefty defied expectations, shutting down the powerful Blue Jays before exiting in the fifth inning. Thanks to a most unlikely pitching performance, a most unexpected team won the ALCS 4-1.

Cleveland, which has never hosted a World Series opener, will play Game 1 at Progressive Field on Tuesday night against the Chicago Cubs or Los Angeles Dodgers.

Manager Terry Francona's team will try to augment what's already been a

SEE TRIBE ON PAGE 29

ALCS MVP Andrew Miller celebrates during Wednesday's 3-0 series-clinching Game 5 win over the Blue Jays in Toronto.

FRANK GUINY,
THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP



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